～THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER～

KUSARIBE

絶園のテンペスト

特別編

原作：城平京
構成：左有秀
作画：彩崎廉

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SQUARE ENIX.

絶園のテンペスト
～THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER～

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REN SAIZAKI

AT THE VERY END, SAMON MADE IT ONTO THE COVER. THIS IS HOW HE FELT WHEN THAT HAPPENED.

ANYWAY, THIS IS THE FINAL VOLUME.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING ALL THIS TIME!

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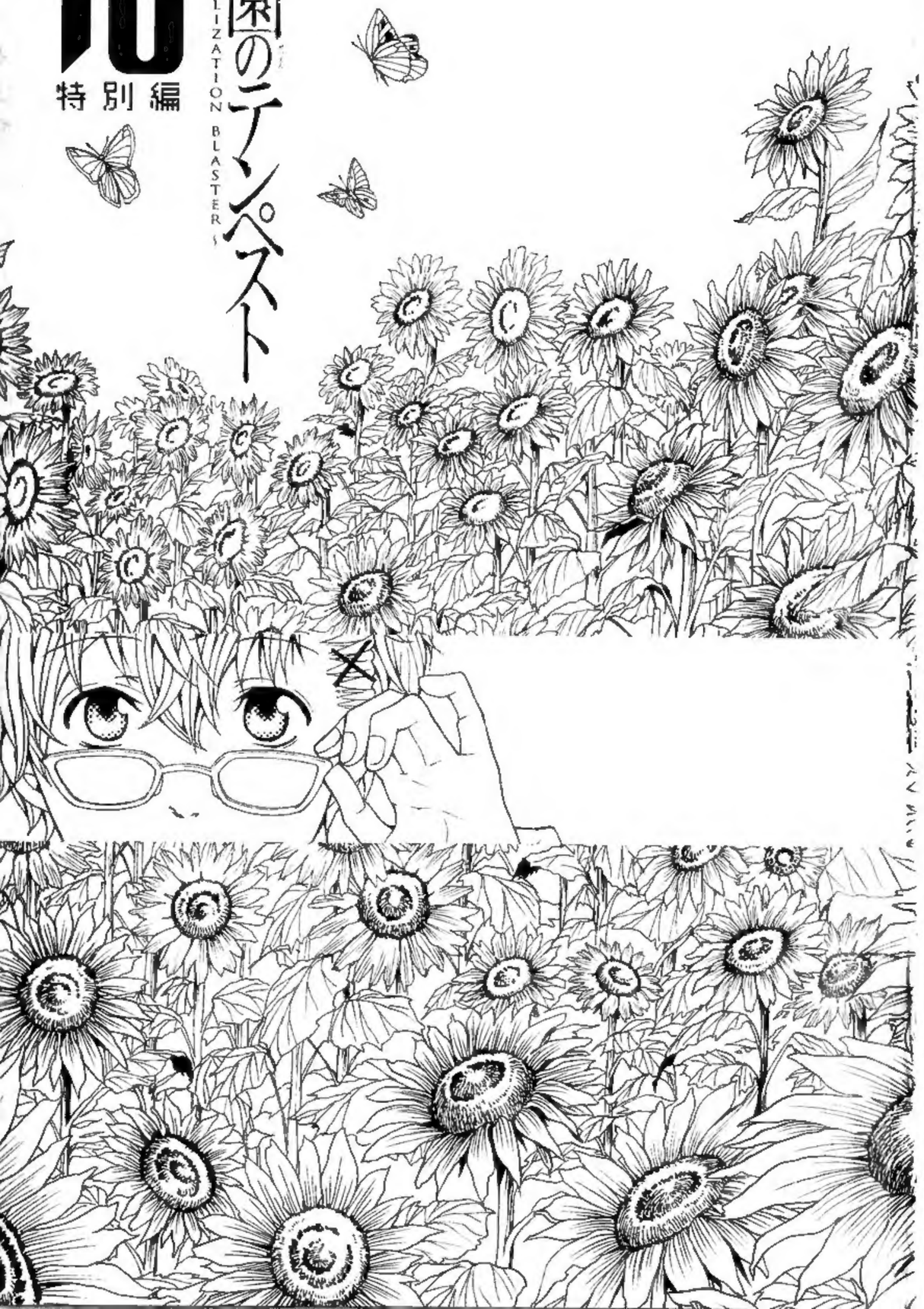
特別編

絶園のテンペスト

〜THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER〜



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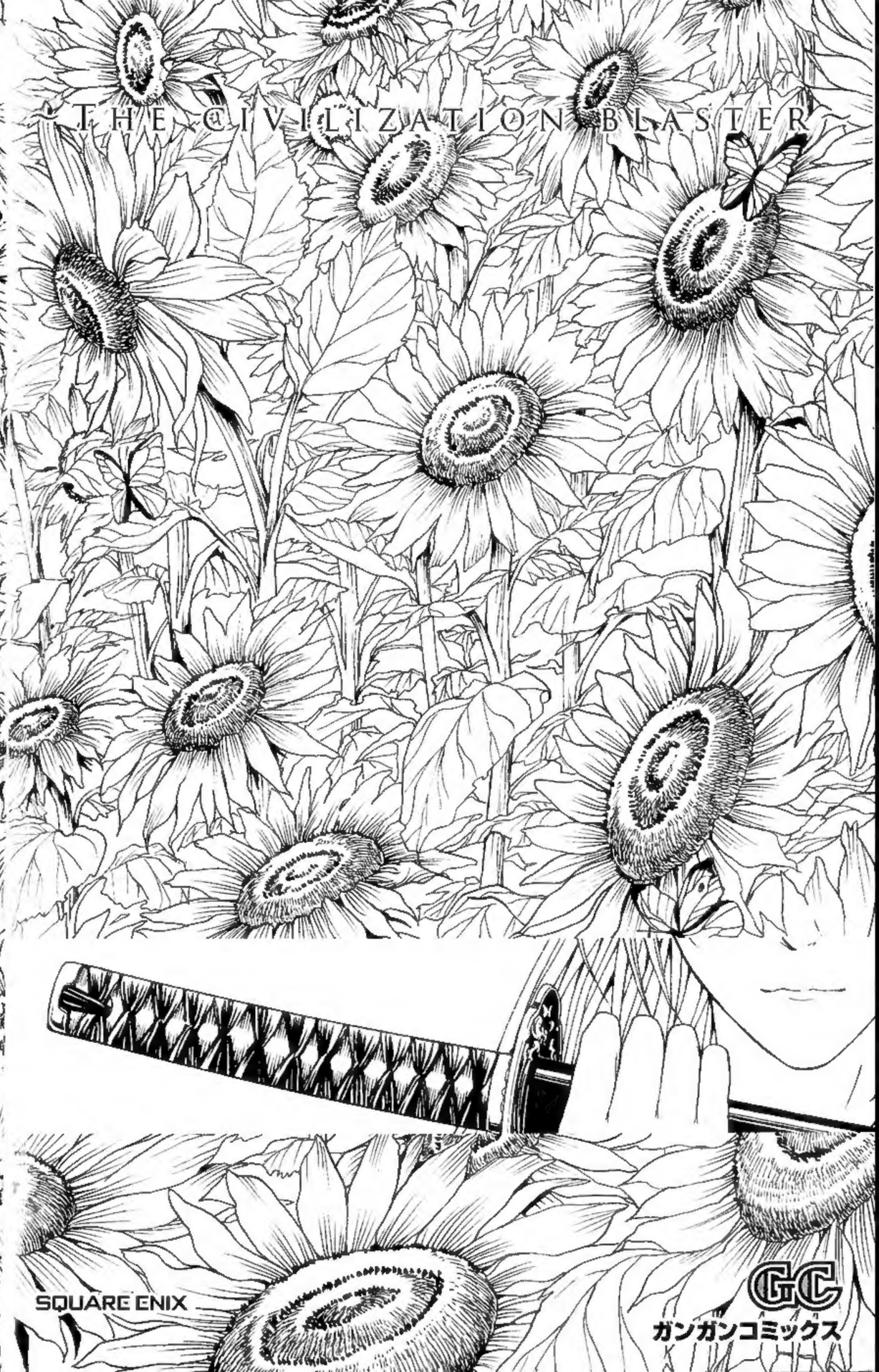

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Extra Volume

～The Civilization Blaster～

原作◉城平京
構成◉左有秀
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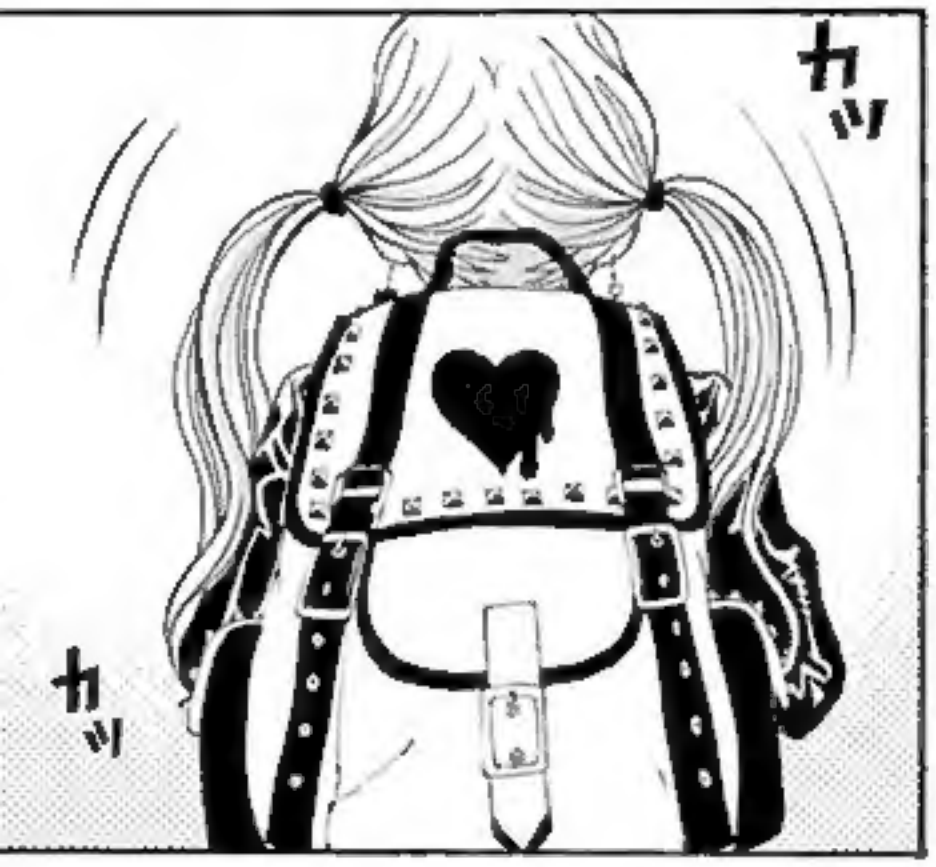
~THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER~

EXTRA VOLUME

Extra 1: The Story of a New Girlfriend

THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER



URGH...
I MESSED UP...

I GET CALLED OUT BY MY TEACHER, MY BOYFRIEND DUMPS ME...

I KNOW THINGS HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN GOING MY WAY, BUT *STILL*...

THE HECK...

I WAS SO HAPPY I WAS ABLE TO PICK UP SO MANY OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS,

BUT THEN I NOTICED I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GET A RIDE HOME...

AND MY PHONE'S DEAD...

THIS IS USELESS.

I GOTTA REST FOR A BIT...

ハーー

I WOULDN'T EVEN MIND FREEZING TO DEATH AT THIS POINT...

NO MATTER WHAT I DO, THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY WAY THIS ISN'T GOING TO END BADLY FOR ME.

...HM?

WAIT, WHAT AM I YELLING FOR?

NO ONE'S GOING TO COME SAVE ME HERE ANYWAY!

I DON'T MIND FREEZING TO DEATH,

BUT I AM **NOT** GETTING MOLESTED BY SOME PERVERT!!

AHAHAHAHAHA!!

PERVEEEEEERT!!

THE HELL'RE YOU DOING, SLEEPING OUT HERE?

YOUR BODY'S FREEZING COLD.

7

TH...

I ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.

SERI-OUSLY,

I'M NOT A PERVERT.

YOU PERVERT!

THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN JUST WALK UP TO A GIRL AND START STROKING HER FACE,

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING.

THEN WHY ARE YOU ALL THE WAY OUT IN A DESERTED PLACE LIKE THIS!?

!!

THEN...

SO I'M WALKING TO A STATION CLOSER TO HOME!

I SPENT TOO MUCH MONEY GOING AROUND ANTIQUE BOOK STORES AND DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH LEFT FOR THE RIDE HOME,

ANTIQUE BOOK STORES, EH?

SO THEN IS THIS WHOLE BAG FULL OF OLD BOOKS?

AND I THEN I FOUND OUT THAT I HAD TO CROSS THIS MOUNTAIN, SO I WAS TAKING A QUICK REST!

!!!

WHEN YOU FIND AN OLD BOOK, YOU MIGHT NEVER FIND IT AGAIN!

NEXT TIME, TRY TO KEEP TRACK OF HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE LEFT.

YEAH, WHATEVER.

YOU'LL STILL CATCH A COLD IF YOU FALL ASLEEP OUT HERE.

IF I'D JUST THOUGHT, "I'LL BUY IT THE NEXT TIME I SEE A COPY,"

I MIGHT HAVE NEVER SEEN IT AGAIN!

HUH!?

"YEAH, WHATEVER" YOURSELF!

DRINK IT.

IT'LL WARM YOU UP A BIT.

HERE. I JUST BOUGHT THIS.

I PREFER TEA.

IT'S EITHER THAT OR BEAN SOUP.

COFFEE

ZOI

I'VE HAD ENOUGH BAD LUCK TODAY ALREADY.

A LITTLE MORE ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING.

DRINK IT, AND THEN HURRY UP AND GET OFF THIS MOUNTAIN.

WELL,

I'LL DRINK THE COFFEE IF THAT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.

THERE'S THINGS A LOT MORE DANGEROUS THAN PERVERTS OUT HERE.

チッ

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

THINK WHAT YOU WANT.

CALL ME WHATEVER.

WHY NOT? IF YOU'RE REALLY NOT A PERVERT, IT SHOULDN'T MATTER, RIGHT?

プイ

WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO TELL YOU?

WHERE DID *THAT* COME FROM?

FINE, I'LL CALL YOU THE FLYMAN.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THEM, YOU'RE FREE TO TELL ME YOUR ACTUAL NAME

ARE ALL YOUR OPTIONS GONNA BE LIKE THIS?

THEN, WOULD YOU RATHER I CALLED YOU THE SPECTER?

...MAHIRO FUWA.

HAPPY?

YOU LOOK CUTE AND ALL,

BUT THAT ALL GOES STRAIGHT TO HELL WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH.

YOU KNOW...

BUT HE WOULDN'T READ EVEN A SINGLE ONE OF THE BOOKS I RECOMMENDED!

NOT EVEN SHIRO KUNIEDA'S *SHINSHU KOKETSUJO!*

SHUT UP.

THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS MY BOYFRIEND DUMPED ME.

SO AFTER THAT I TOLD H.M TO TRY KYOJI SHIRAI'S *SHINSENGUMI.*

EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT THE SHINSENGJMI, SO I THOUGHT HE'D BE ABLE TO GET .NTO IT.

...YOUR FIRST RECOMMEN-DAT.ON WAS A BOOK THAT WAS NEVER FINISHED?

YOU REALLY HAVE WEIRD TASTE IN BOOKS, DON'T YOU?

I'M PRETTY SURE THE SHINSENGUMI DON'T ACTUALLY APPEAR IN THAT.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH LIKING THEM?

THESE ARE ALL GREAT EXAMPLES OF JAPANESE LITERATURE.

THE STORY'S MOSTLY ABOUT SPINNING TOPS.

YEAH, YOU'VE REALLY GOT WEIRD TASTE.

HE COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER THE *NAME* OF *TSUTAKAZURA KISO NO KAKEHASHI*!

AND THERE WERE MORE!

NOT REALLY.

YEAH? SO? SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?

WELL YOU SEEM TO KNOW THESE "WEIRD BOOKS" PRETTY WELL, TOO.

All of them...

Our house's library...!?

...MY DAD LIKED THOSE KINDS OF BOOKS TOO, SO HE COLLECTED THEM.

HE HAD ALL OF THEM SET UP AT OUR HOUSE'S LIBRARY. I READ A LOT OF THEM TO KILL TIME.

ピコーン

LET ME BORROW THEM!

MOST LIBRARIES PROBABLY WON'T HAVE THEM, AND ANTIQUE BOOK STORES ARE SO EXPENSIVE!

HEY,

WHERE DO YOU LIVE!?

YOU REALLY SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL AROUND PEOPLE YOU'VE JUST MET.

YOU'LL GET IN OVER YOUR HEAD ONE DAY.

YOU'LL GET HOME FASTER THAT WAY.

DON'T BOTHER CROSSING THE MOUNTAIN. JUST GO BACK THE WAY YOU CAME.

HERE. TAKE THIS AND GET A TAXI.

YOU JUST DON'T LEARN, DO YOU?

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE MONEY, TAKE ME TO YOUR LIBRARY.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON YOU.

JUST HURRY UP AND GET OFF THIS MOUNTAIN.

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WEIRDO.

I SUPPOSE HE WASN'T A BAD GUY, AT LEAST

WELL,

WHY *WAS* HE OUT HERE, ANYWAY?

IT'S SO PRETTY!

OH, A BUTTER-FLY!

WAIT, THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

HUH?

!?

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

DAMN IT, I TOLD YOU TO GET OFF THE MOUNTAIN!

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

MOVE AND I'M TOSSING YOU!

STAY STILL!

JUST CALL IT MAGIC.

WAAAHHH! I-IS THIS WITCH-CRAFT!?

SERIOUSLY, EVEN NOW, YOU'RE NOT CUTE AT ALL.

DID YOU COME BACK TO SAVE ME?

DO I LOOK LIKE THAT GOOD OF A PERSON?

YOU DON'T LIKE BEING THOUGHT OF THAT WAY, DO YOU?

STOP ASKING QUESTIONS.

JUST SHUT UP.

.....

HEY,

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH EVERY-THING?

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?

DON'T WORRY, YOU PROBABLY WON'T DIE.

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

YOU'RE OWN YOUR OWN FROM HERE ON OUT.

IT WAS ONLY A MONTH LATER THAT I LEARNED THAT EVERYONE ELSE HAD BEEN TURNED TO METAL.

I WAS THE ONLY PERSON FOUND ALIVE IN THE AREA AROUND WHERE THAT FRUIT-LIKE THING HAD APPEARED.

BUT I WAS TREATED VERY WELL, SO THAT WAS NICE

I WAS KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE IN SOMETHING THAT LOOKED LIKE A FIVE-STAR HOTEL, WHERE I WASN'T ALLOWED TO LEAVE OR CONTACT MY FAMILY.

I WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS. IT WAS REALLY ROUGH,

I DIDN'T LEARN MORE ABOUT MAHIRO FUWA UNTIL LATER.

APPARENTLY, BOTH HIS PARENTS AND HIS SISTER HAD BEEN MURDERED.

THAT WAS WHY HE COULDN'T JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

WHEN HE SAW ME SLEEPING BY THE ROAD, MY POSE MUST HAVE REMINDED HIM OF HOW HIS SISTER HAD DIED.

ANYWAY, THAT ASIDE,

THE WORLD'S CHANGED QUITE A BIT SINCE THEN, BUT MY LIFE IS BACK TO NORMAL.

AND I DECIDED THAT I WANTED TO MEET MAHIRO FUWA AGAIN.

THE FLYMAN

JUZA JINNO

ハエ

I'M GONNA GET HIM TO LET ME IN THERE, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!

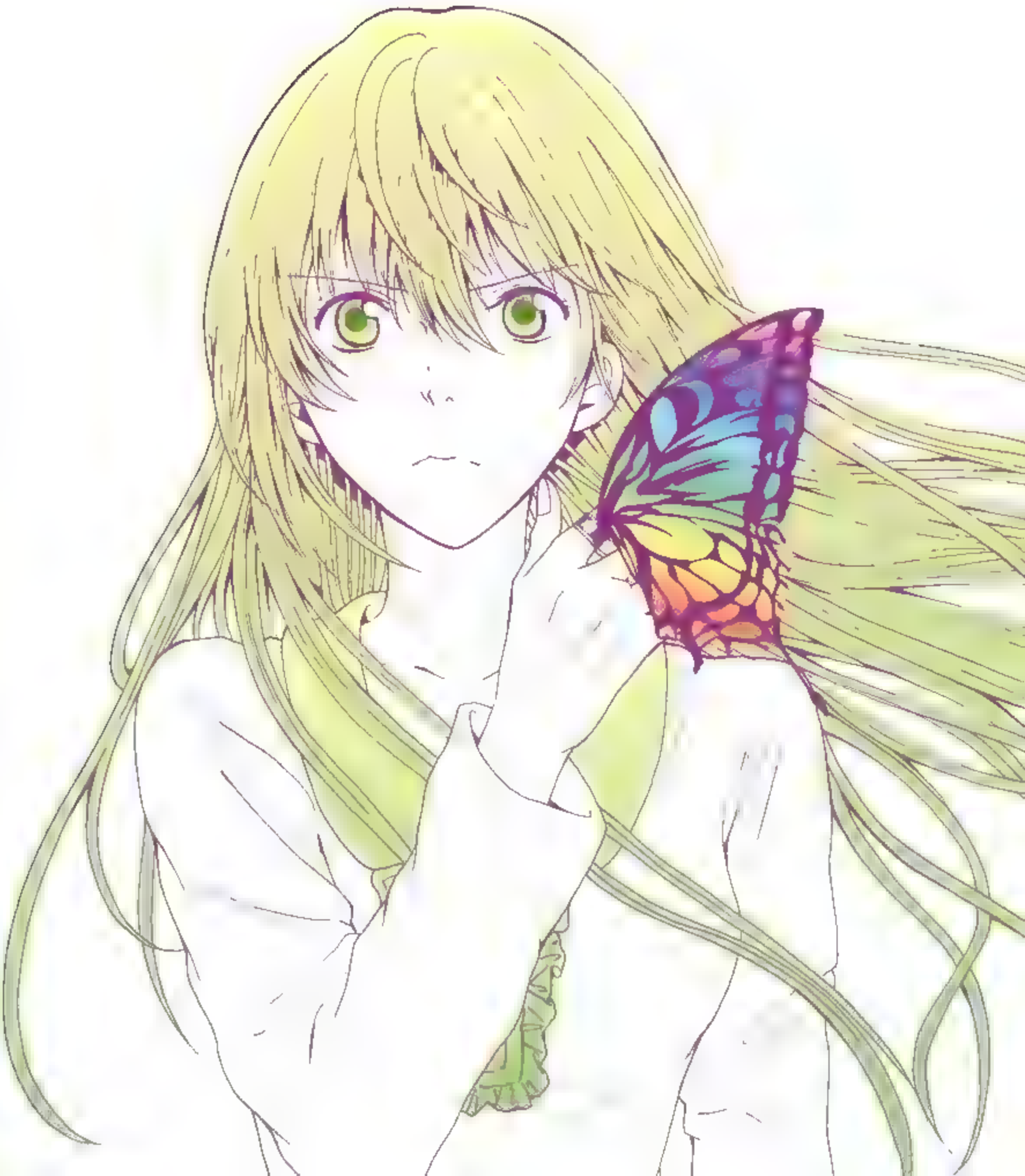
I'M GONNA FIND HIS HOUSE! HIS LIBRARY!

THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME.

AS FOR HOW I BECAME HIS GIRLFRIEND...

THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

絶園のテンペスト



Extra 2: Puss in Boots
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THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

AFTER THE FUNERAL,

THE FAMILY LAWYER READ THE WILL OF MY GRAND-FATHER, RYUGO KAJIKURA.

IT REMINDED ME OF THE FAIRY TALE, "PUSS IN BOOTS."

パーー…

フゥ…

MR. TAKUMI HAYAKAWA?

I HAVE A MATTER TO DISCUSS WITH YOU WHICH I COULD NOT MENTION .N FRONT OF THE OTHERS.

MR. RYUGO KAJIKURA SAID THAT "FRAULEIN" WAS TO BE LEFT TO YOU.

HUH?

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF IT.

"PUSS IN BOOTS."

THE ELDEST SON RECEIVED HIS MILL,

THE SECOND SON RECEIVED HIS DONKEY,

A MILLER LEFT HIS BELONGINGS TO HIS THREE SONS.

THE FIRST AND SECOND SONS COULD MAKE THEIR LIVINGS WITH THEIR INHERITANCES,

BUT WHAT COULD THE THIRD SON DO WITH ONLY A CAT?

?

AND THE THIRD SON RECEIVED NOTHING BUT HIS CAT.

I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW THE SPECIFICS EITHER.

HE LEFT ME... "FRAULEIN?"

YOU WERE TO BE TOLD THAT.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT MR. RYUGO TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE DIED,

OH...

I AM TRULY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS...

HE DID NOT WRITE IT IN HIS WILL, BUT...

.....

WHAT'S "FRAULEIN?"

GRAND-FATHER...

MY GRANDFATHER, THE PRESIDENT OF A PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY IN C PREFECTURE, PASSED AWAY THIS MONTH AT 85. HE HAD MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS SOMEONE WITH INCREDIBLE INFLUENCE IN THE ECONOMIC WORLD.

HIS CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN HAD WORKED TIRELESSLY WITH HIM TO SUPPORT HIS COMPANY, AND SEVERAL OF THEM HAD GONE ON TO BECOME POLITICIANS AND CABINET MEMBERS, MAKING THE KAJIKURA NAME KNOWN THROUGHOUT JAPAN.

MY MOTHER HAD REBELLED AGAINST HER FATHER,

RUNNING AWAY TO MARRY A MAN NAMED DAICHI HAYAKAWA AND SEVERING ALL HER TIES WITH HER FAMILY.

BUT WHILE I WAS ALSO ONE OF RYUGO KAJIKURA'S GRANDCHILDREN, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF THE BENEFITS THAT CAME WITH THE FAMILY NAME.

BUT I STILL BECAME AN ORDINARY SALARYMAN, WITH NONE OF THE KAJIKURA FAMILY'S INFLUENCE.

カ
カ

SHE RECONCILED WITH HER FATHER AROUND WHEN I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL,

MY PARENTS WEREN'T ANGRY ABOUT IT, THOUGH. THEY AGREED THAT IT WAS ONLY FAIR, SINCE THEY HAD LEFT THE KAJIKURA FAMILY.

MY GRANDFATHER LEFT SOME MONEY TO MY MOTHER IN HIS WILL, BUT IT WAS NEXT TO NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT EVERYONE ELSE RECEIVED.

BUT I WASN'T OKAY WITH THAT.

MY GRANDFATHER HAD ONCE INVITED ME TO TALK FOR SOME REASON, AND DISCUSSED ALL SORTS OF THINGS WITH ME.

I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO UTILIZE THE FAMILY'S MONEY AND POWER BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

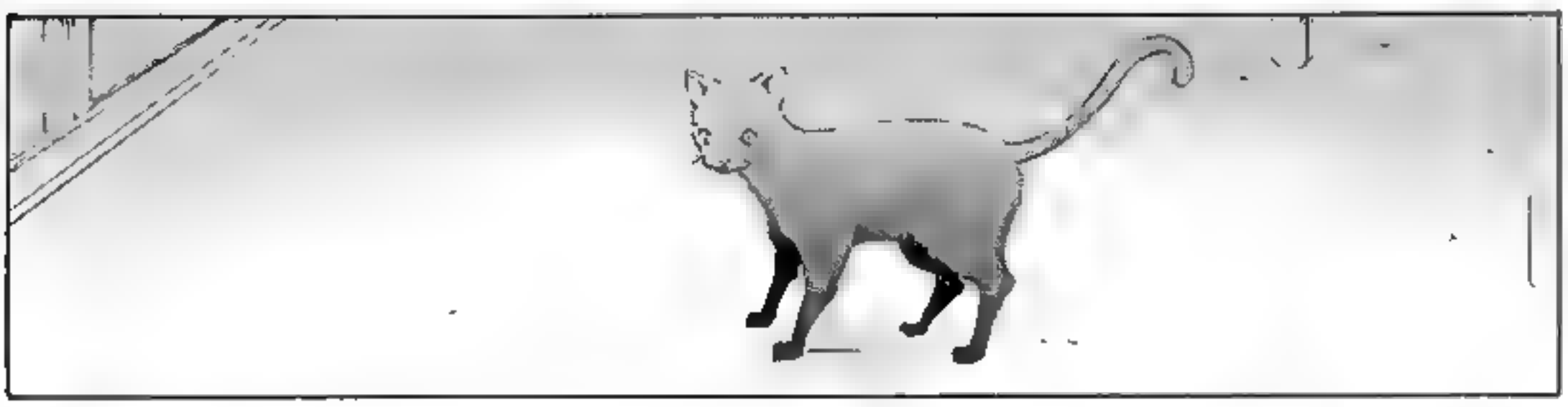
BUT THERE WAS NOTHING. INSTEAD, I GOT...

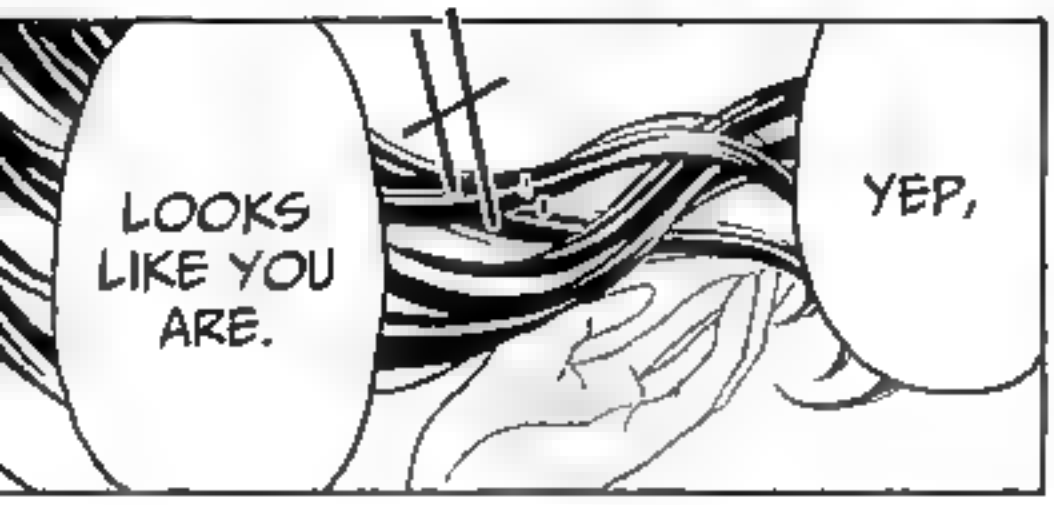
SO I HAD HOPED THAT I WOULD BE LEFT SOMETHING **SPECIAL** IN HIS WILL,

SO WHAT WAS IT, GRANDFATHER? A YOUNG LOVER, PERHAPS? OR MAYBE EVEN A HIDDEN CHILD?

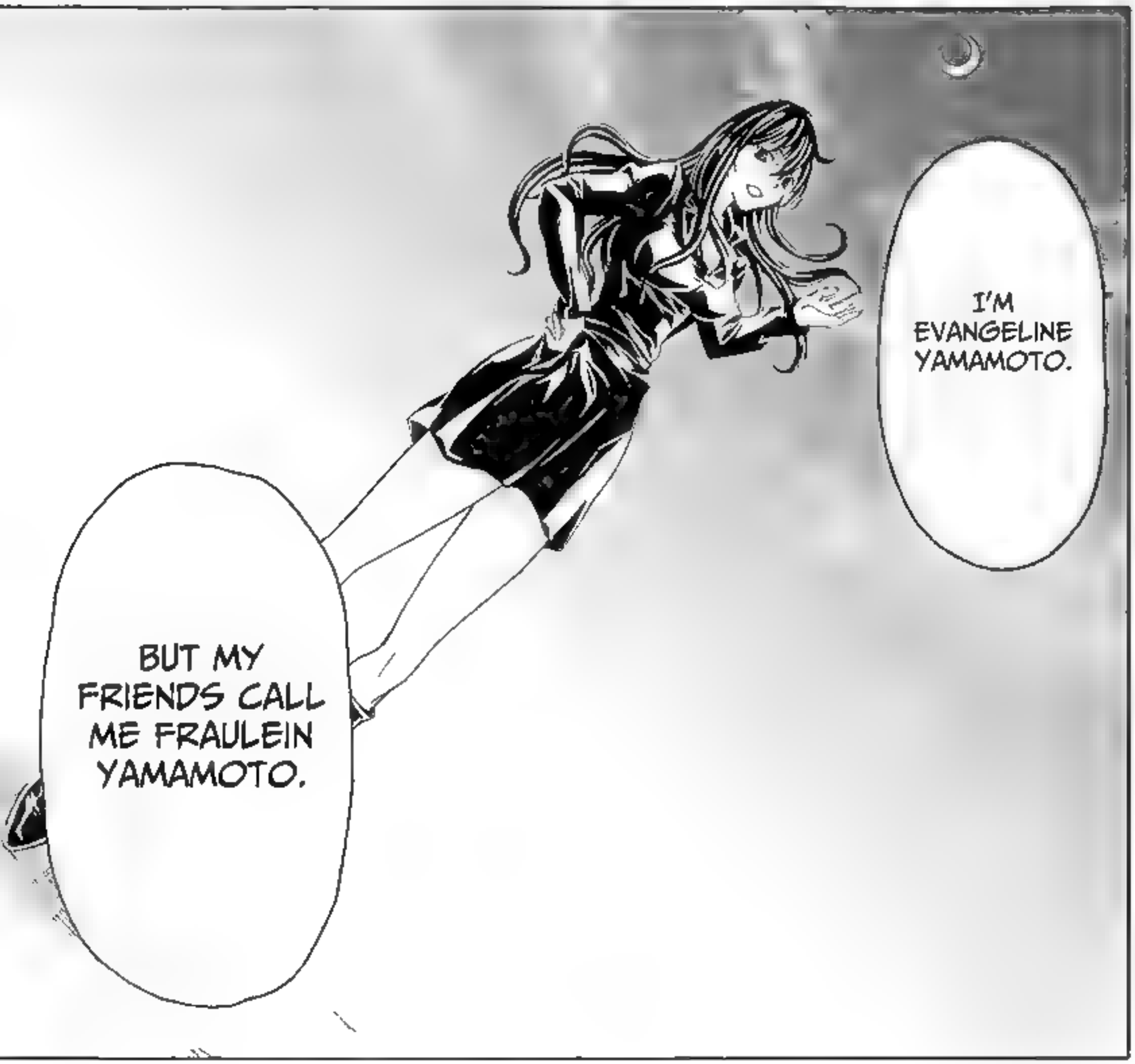
IT MEANS AN UNMARRIED WOMAN IN GERMAN,

"FRAULEIN"...




LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE.
YEP,

ARE YOU TAKUMI HAYAKAWA?


I'M EVANGELINE YAMAMOTO.
BUT MY FRIENDS CALL ME FRAULEIN YAMAMOTO.

I'M 28, UNEM-PLOYED,

AND NOT SUSPICIOUS AT ALL.

FRAULEIN...!

THAT'S NOT FINE AT ALL.

IT'S FINE!

I PLAN TO KEEP TELLING PEOPLE THAT I'M 28 TEN YEARS FROM NOW ANYWAY.

YOU DON'T LOOK 28.

YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT YOUNGER?

MY GRAND-FATHER

LEFT ME "FRAULEIN."

SO, HAVE YOU HEARD OF ME?

YEP.

THAT'S ME.

THEY'RE STYLISH, DON'T TALK ABOUT THEM LIKE THEY'RE RAIN GEAR.

YOU'RE

WEARING BOOTS.

SORRY.

YOU KNOW, BEING LEFT SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T LOOK HELPFUL AT ALL.

IT'S JUST THAT MY GRANDFATHER'S WILL REMINDED ME OF "PUSS IN BOOTS."

OH, I GET IT.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU MENTIONED THE BOOTS.

SO,

ARE YOU...

GOING TO INHERIT ME

LIKE IN THE FAIRY TALE?

AND THEN...

ONCE GIVEN THOSE, THE CAT GATHERED ITS WIT AND COURAGE,

THE CAT ASKED THE THIRD SON TO GIVE HIM A BAG AND A PAIR OF BOOTS.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR ME?

IF YOU'RE THE CAT IN THIS STORY,

I'M GOING TO HELP YOU FINISH THE WORK YOUR GRANDFATHER STARTED,

AND GIVE YOU THE MONEY AND POWER YOU'LL NEED TO DO THAT.

YOU'LL BE SITTING ON TOP OF AN EMPIRE.

IF ALL GOES WELL,

SOUNDS LIKE IT COULD GO EITHER WAY IF I DON'T END UP USING YOU RIGHT.

IN A WAY,

I'M THE KEY TO RYUGO KAJIKURA'S GREATEST TREASURE.

LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN LEFT WITH A PRETTY HIGH-MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY

SHEESH.

SO DOES THAT MEAN...

IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR GRAND-FATHER EXPECTED A LOT FROM YOU.

WHAT WITH YOUR AMBITION, WIT, AND BETTER-THAN-AVERAGE CHARACTER.

AND MAKE ME A KING?

THAT YOU'RE GOING TO DEFEAT A MAGICIAN

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MAGICIANS?

...THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS IN "PUSS IN BOOTS."

AFTER HE GETS CLOSE TO THE KING, THE CAT INTRODUCES THE THIRD SON TO THE KING AND PRINCESS,

NOW THAT HE HAS A CASTLE, THE THIRD SON IS ABLE TO MARRY THE PRINCESS AND BECOME A KING.

THEN HE DEFEATS A MAGICIAN AND GIVES HIS MASTER THE MAGICIAN'S CASTLE.

BUT THERE ARE SOME OTHER VERSIONS OF THE STORY,

WHERE THE ONE THE CAT DEFEATS IN THE END IS SOMETHING ELSE, LIKE A MONSTER OR A MAN-EATING DEMON.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

.....

I SUPPOSE THIS IS WHAT YOU COULD CALL A COINCIDENCE.

YOU'LL FIND OUT IF YOU INHERIT ME.

BUT IF IT'S FOR REAL, THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE TO GET THE POWER I'VE ALWAYS WANTED.

THIS COULD BE A TRAP OR A JOKE,

WELL,

BUT WHO EXACTLY *ARE* YOU?

...I'M FINE WITH INHERITING YOU,

I GUESS YOU COULD CALL ME THE CAT IN YOUR FAIRY TALE.

WITH THE CAT BECOMING PRIME MINISTER OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

WELL, THE STORY DID END

HAHA!

MAYBE YOU CAN EVEN MAKE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE PART OF THAT STORY.

WOW, IT'S LIKE I'M LIVING IN A STORY.

JUST TO MAKE SURE, YOU'RE NOT A RELATIVE OF MINE, ARE YOU?

LIKE MY GRAND-FATHER'S SECRET DAUGHTER?

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING FANCY LIKE THAT!

SAYING IT LIKE THAT

REALLY DOESN'T REASSURE ME AT ALL.

DON'T WORRY.

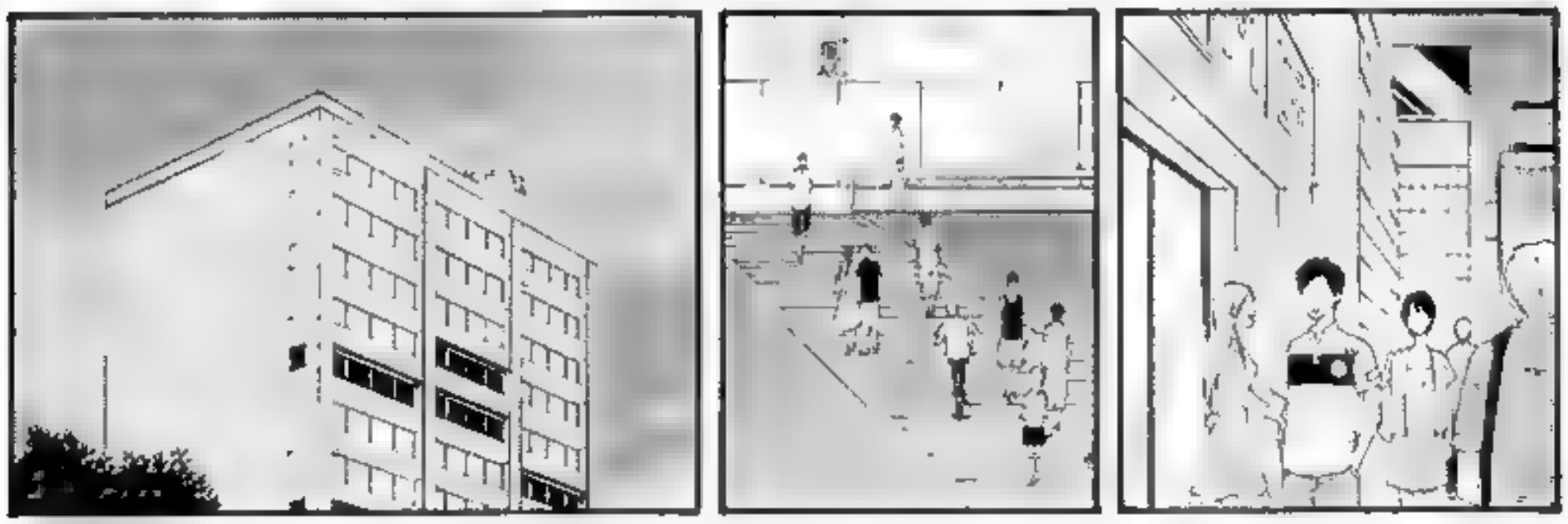
WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO RELATIONSHIP THAT WOULD LEGALLY STAND IN THE WAY OF US GETTING MARRIED.

AND THEN...

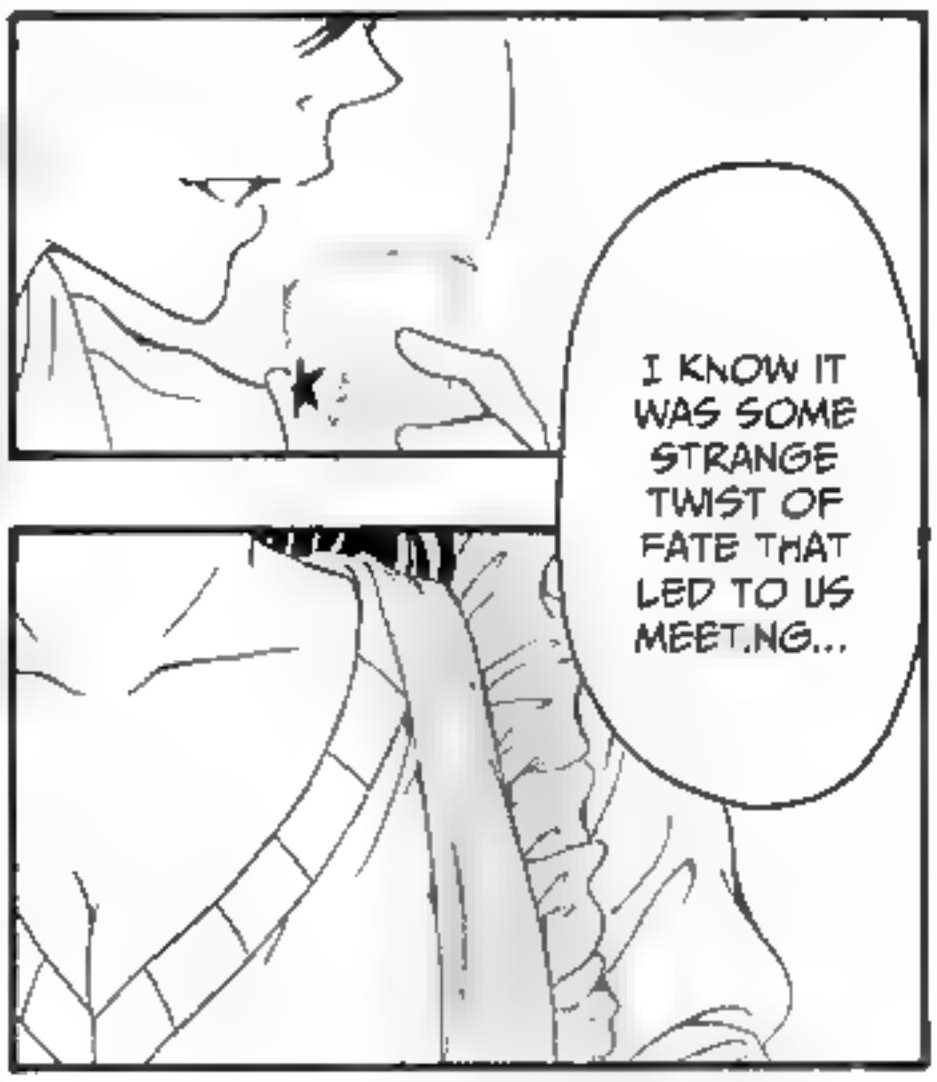
YEARS LATER, I BECAME INVOLVED WITH A WAR BETWEEN MAGICIANS THAT MY GRANDFATHER HAD FEARED WOULD TAKE PLACE.

LIKE THAT, I INHERITED "FRAULEIN."

AND EVEN THOUGH I INHERITED HER, I STILL DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE WOMAN NAMED YAMAMOTO.



BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY BECAME A HOUSEWIFE.


I KNOW IT WAS SOME STRANGE TWIST OF FATE THAT LED TO US MEET.NG...

コト…

YOU KNOW HOW MY LIFE IS, THERE AREN'T THAT MANY PEOPLE I COULD DATE ANYWAY.

I THINK RYUGO KAJIKURA MUST HAVE IMAGINED WE'D GET TOGETHER.

I WASN'T JOKING WHEN I MENT.ONED THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING MARR.ED BACK WHEN WE FIRST MET.

SPEAKING OF WHICH,

I REALLY STILL DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THAT "LIFE" OF YOURS.

SHE WON'T EVEN TELL ME, AND I'M THE ONE SHE MARRIED.

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW OLD EITHER OF YOU ARE.

YOU'RE NOT THAT DIFFERENT, SAMON.

MY WIFE IS STILL SAYING SHE'S 28.

I DON'T THINK I'M AT LIBERTY TO TELL YOU.

MAN, WHO WAS EXPECTING THIS ENDING?

IT'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE FAIRY TALE.

INSTEAD OF MAKING HER MASTER A KING, PUSS IN BOOTS MARRIED THE MAGICIAN.

ME INHERITING "FRAULEIN" WAS JUST THE ENDING TO MY GRANDFATHER'S OWN FAIRY TALE.

I COULD NEVER BECOME THE MAIN CHARACTER OF A FAIRY TALE.

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY WANTED TO BE A KING.

SHE WAS NEVER THE RIGHT WOMAN FOR ME, ANYWAY.

YOU DON'T STILL REFER TO YOURSELF AS "FRAULEIN YAMAMOTO," DO YOU?

...COME TO THINK OF IT,

ホ...!

MY LAST NAME IS DIFFERENT NOW, TOO. ♡

WELL, I *AM* A MARRIED WOMAN NOW.

"EX-FRAULEIN YAMAMOTO."

NOW I INTRODUCE MYSELF AS

★

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...YOU REALLY ARE A MYSTERY.

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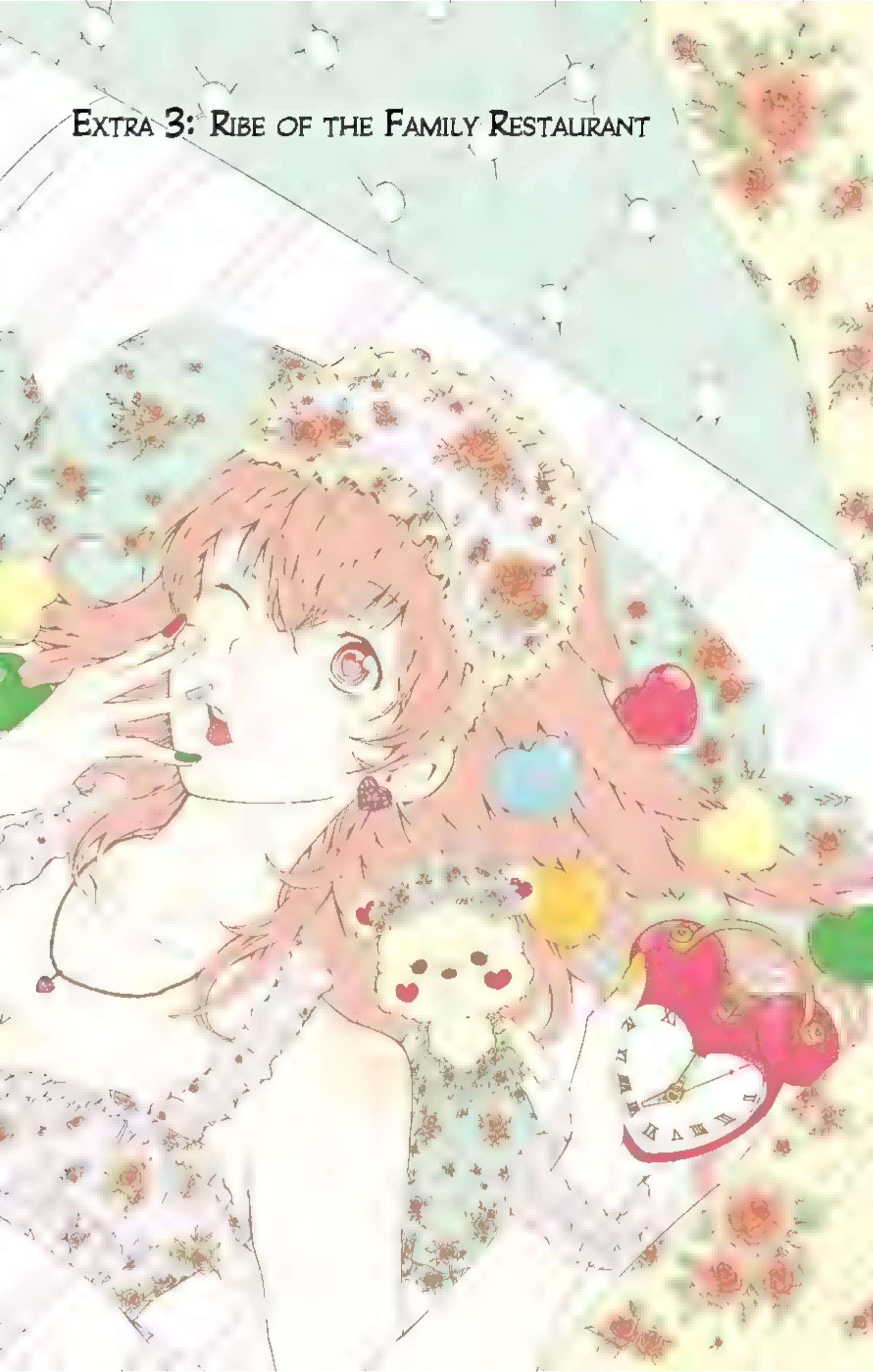
Extra 3: Ribe of the Family Restaurant



THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

GRILL

AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE,
SHE STARTED WORKING PART-TIME AT THE FAMILY RESTAURANT WHERE I'M THE MANAGER.

LET'S TALK ABOUT RIBE.

IT WAS HER FIRST TIME WORKING IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY, BUT SHE MADE AN EXCELLENT FIRST IMPRESSION.

HER NAME IS HAKAZE KUSARIBE.

IT'S A RATHER STRANGE NAME, AND SHE'S THE KIND OF GIRL WHO DRAWS YOUR ATTENTION.

鎖部

KUSARIBE IS A PRETTY UNUSUAL LAST NAME.

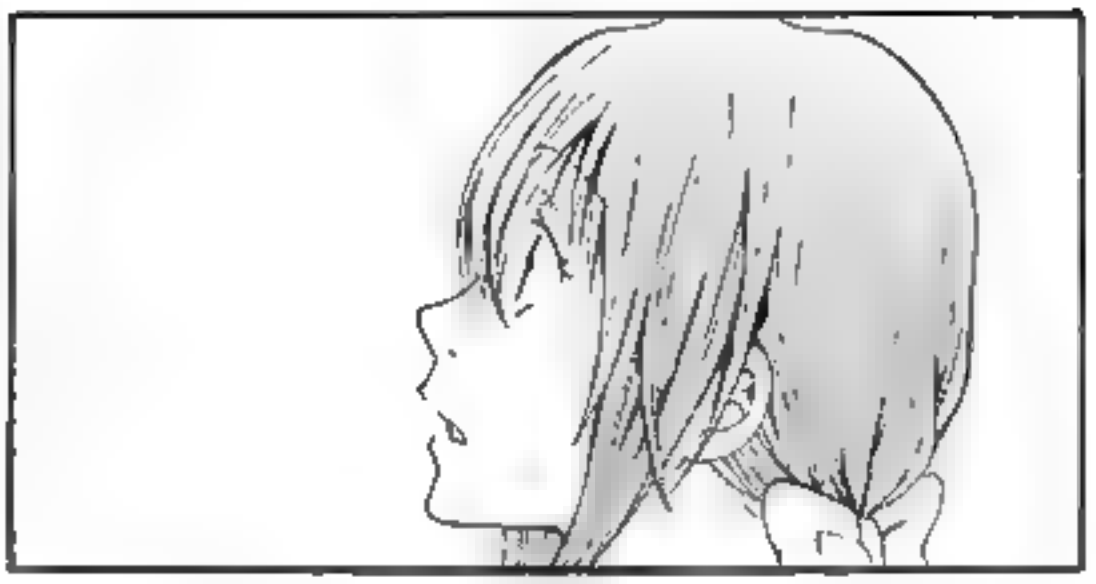
DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE SOME SORT OF HISTORY?

佐久間

SHE WAS ABLE TO TAKE SHIFTS EVERY DAY, INCLUDING WEEKENDS, WHICH I WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR.

THERE'S A COUPLE WITH THE SAME LAST NAME

IN THE APARTMENT BJILDING WHERE I LIVE.



WHY DO YOU ASK?

IT HAS A BIT OF HISTORY.

THEY SORT OF KEEP TO THEMSELVES,

SO I WAS JUST WONDERING IF THEY WERE RELATED TO YOU.

YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH.

YEAH, THAT WOULD BE FUNNY.

IT'S BE FUNNY IF THEY TURNED OUT TO BE FROM SOME FAMILY OF MAGICIANS, THOUGH.

WHO HAD LOST THEIR FORTUNE IN THE PANIC SURROUNDING THE TREE OF GENESIS AND HAD BEEN FORCED TO STOOP TO MANUAL LABOR.

THERE WERE SOME RUMORS AMONG THE STAFF THAT SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY FAMILY

RIBE WAS ALWAYS VERY POLITE, AND HAD AN AIR OF ELEGANCE AROUND HER.

EVEN THOUGH THE TREE WAS GONE, WHAT HAD BEEN LOST COULD NEVER BE REGAINED.

IN LESS THAN A WEEK, SHE'D MASTERED HER JOB AND WAS WORKING HARDER THAN ANYONE ELSE ON STAFF.

BUT SHE DEFINITELY WASN'T A SHELTERED PRINCESS WITH NO IDEA HOW THE OUTSIDE WORLD WORKED.

I WAS WORRIED THAT SHE MIGHT NOT GET ALONG WELL WITH THE OTHER STAFF,

SINCE GIRLS WHO STAND OUT LIKE THAT AREN'T USUALLY TOO POPULAR.

SHE WAS MORE LIKE A CONCIERGE AT A FIRST-CLASS HOTEL THAN A MERE WAITRESS.

ALL THE MORE SO WITH HOW PRETTY SHE WAS.

ABOUT RIBE?

RIBE?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT EVERYONE THINKS OF KUSARIBE?

I HADN'T KNOWN THAT THEY'D COME UP WITH A NICKNAME FOR HER, BUT AFTER THAT, I STARTED CALLING HER RIBE TOO.

AND SHE'S OKAY WITH THAT?

SO EVERYONE JUST CALLS HER RIBE FOR SHORT.

KUSA

RIBE

KUSARIBE'S KIND OF A MOUTHFUL.

BUT YOU'RE ALL ON GOOD TERMS WITH HER?

SHE CAN BE A BIT STIFF AT TIMES, RIGHT?

WHY WOULDN'T SHE BE?

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.

WELL, OKAY THEN...

HAHA!

NOT AT ALL.

HUH?

SHE'S ACTUALLY GOT A CRUSH ON SOMEONE.

THE OTHER GIRLS AND I WERE TALKING ABOUT BOYS...

COULD I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

THERE'S SOMEONE I LIKE,

BUT NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I CAN'T MAKE ANY PROGRESS WITH HIM!

EXCUSE ME...

HOW DO I GET HIM TO NOTICE ME!?

I NEED ADVICE FROM PEOPLE MY OWN AGE!

BUT SHE'S CUTE IN HER OWN WAY, YOU KNOW?

SHE SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S BEEN THROUGH SOME STUFF I DON'T REALLY GET,

WE WERE SURPRISED, BUT SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY DESPERATE.

SHE JOINED IN ON THE CONVERSATION AFTER THAT.

A CRUSH...

HUH...

YOU COULDN'T GET HER IF YOU TRIED.

SHE'S ONLY GOT EYES FOR THAT ONE GUY.

OHHH? DO YOU HAVE A THING FOR HER?

I DO NOT!

HE MUST BE SOME SORT OF MANIAC.

WHAT KIND OF PERSON COULD MAKE RIBE SO FIXATED ON HIM?

RIBE GAINED THE ABSOLUTE TRUST OF THE ENTIRE STAFF.

SOON AFTER THAT,

AND STARTED COMPLAINING ABOUT SOMETHING RIDICULOUS TO TRY AND GET HIS MEAL COMPED.

GRILL レストラン

A RATHER UNSAVORY CHARACTER CAME INTO THE RESTAURANT,

HE WAS YELLING AT THE WAITRESS ASSIGNED TO HIM,

I WAS IN THE BACK, AND RAN OUT AS SOON AS I WAS TOLD WHAT WAS GOING ON...

AND THE MALE STAFF WERE TOO SCARED OF HIM TO HELP HER.

SIR,

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY IF YOU FEEL YOU'VE RECEIVED INADEQUATE SERVICE.

BUT RIBE WAS ALREADY STANDING BETWEEN HIM AND THE OTHER WAITRESS.

SO COULD YOU PLEASE HAVE A SEAT?

Z

BJT YOU'RE DISTURBING THE OTHER CUSTOMERS,

WHO D'YOU THINK YOU-

HAVE A SEAT.

PLEASE,

鎖部

AND IMMEDIATELY QUIETED DOWN AND STOPPED COMPLAINING.

THE CUSTOMER WAS POWERLESS BEFORE RIBE,

AND WENT BACK TO WORK.

GAVE THE OTHER WAITRESS A PAT ON THE BACK AND A SMILE,

RIBE BOWED POLITELY TO HIM,

IT WAS LIKE THIS SORT OF TROUBLE WAS NOTHING TO HER, AS IF SHE HAD BEEN ON SOME SORT OF BATTLEFIELD BEFORE,

BUT STILL, NO ONE WAS ABLE TO GUESS WHAT HER BACKGROUND WAS.

AND THE RESPECT OF THE MEN.

THAT INCIDENT GAINED RIBE THE COMPLETE TRUST OF ALL HER FEMALE COWORKERS,

YOU'RE A GIRL. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE AND DONE THAT.

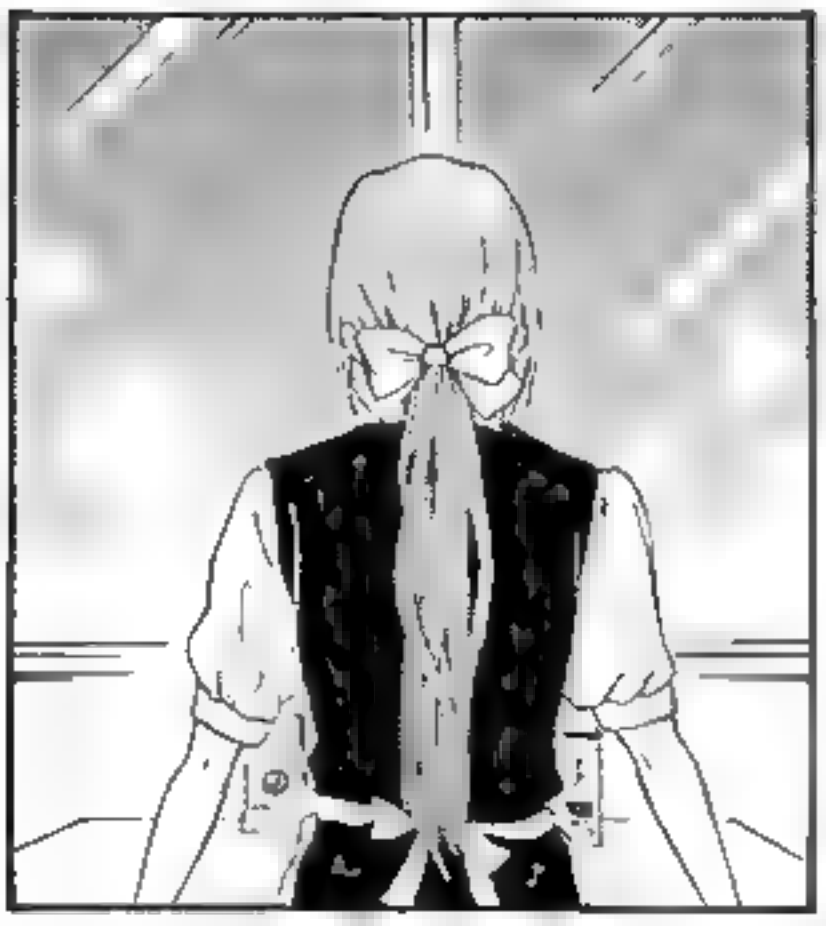
HE COULD HAVE ATTACKED YOU.

BUT I COULDN'T JUST SAY NOTHING.

RIBE,

I JUST SIZED HIM UP AND DID WHAT I THOUGHT WAS BEST.

YOU DIDN'T NEED TO GO THAT FAR.



BUT AREN'T YOU JUST A LITTLE TOO PERFECT AT EVERYTHING?
I KNOW THIS IS ONLY A PART-TIME JOB,

IS THAT A BAD THING?

YOU'RE TRYING AS HARD AS YOU CAN TO BE PERFECT, AREN'T YOU?

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE NOTHING FAZES YOU.

WELL, I *AM* YOUR MANAGER.

...YOU SURE ARE WATCHING ME CLOSELY.

カチャ

I...

USED TO HAVE THE POWER TO ACCOMPLISH WHATEVER I WANTED WITHOUT EVEN LIFTING A FINGER.

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カチャ

I DON'T WANT TO FEEL LIKE I DID BEFORE, WHEN I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.

BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED, AND I LOST THAT POWER.

I THINK THAT IF SOMEONE CAN DO SOMETHING, THEY SHOULD GIVE IT EVERYTHING THEY HAVE TO DO IT AS PERFECTLY AS POSSIBLE.

I WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES SO THAT I NEVER FEEL LIKE THAT AGAIN.

...ARE YOU DOING THIS FOR THE PERSON YOU LIKE?

BY DOING THAT,

I CAN PROVE THAT I'M STILL MYSELF.

WELL...

IN A WAY.

ﾚﾚ?

I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE I'M WORKING HERE YET.

I FEEL LIKE EVEN A BOY LIKE THAT

SHOULD UNDERSTAND IF HE JUST SAW YOU WORKING HERE.

WHY NOT?

COULDN'T YOU JUST ASK THE BOY YOU LIKE TO STOP HIM?

THAT'D NEVER WORK.

ナヌ？

...A FEW PEOPLE WOULD JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO COME IN AS CUSTOMERS TO MAKE MY LIFE MISERABLE.

ESPECIALLY THE BOY I LIKE'S BEST FRIEND.

HE REALLY DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A GOOD GUY...

AND THEN, HALFWAY THROUGH JULY...

Oh, thanks

I'll help

AROUND JULY, RIBE BECAME AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF OUR STAFF.

THE POLICE?

MANAGER?

THE POLICE WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

MANAGER,

I'M ABOUT FINISHED...

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HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT THE POLICE SAID

EVER SINCE THEY LEFT?

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LAST NIGHT, AT TWO IN THE MORNING...

BECAUSE OF WHEN IT HAPPENED, IT HASN'T BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPERS YET,

AND I HAVEN'T BEEN CHECKING THE NEWS ONLINE, SO I DIDN'T KNOW.

MY EX-FRIEND AND MY EX-GIRLFRIEND'S BODIES WERE DISCOVERED.

AH.

I SEE.

THEY WANTED TO ASK ME SOME QUESTIONS

TO SEE IF I HAD A MOTIVE FOR KILLING THEM.

...I FEEL LIKE YOU CALLING THEM BOTH "EX"

MIGHT BE A HINT TOWARDS SOME KIND OF MOTIVE.

I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN OVER TWO YEARS...

AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THEY LIVED, SO IT LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT A SUSPECT.

THE LAST TIME I SAW THEM, MY FRIEND STOLE MY GIRLFRIEND FROM ME.

佐久間

SO NOW THEY'RE MY EX-FRIEND AND MY EX-GIRLFRIEND.

SO IT WOULD BE A REASONABLE ASSUMPTION THAT YOU HATED THEM, WHICH COULD POSSIBLY BE A MOTIVE TO MURDER THEM.

NOT MY GIRLFRIEND THAT MUCH, BUT I REALLY HATED MY FRIEND.

NOW THOUGH, I CAN BARELY EVEN REMEMBER WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE.

WELL, I DID HATE THEM BACK THEN.

STRANGE?

I DO HAVE AN ALIBI, SO THE POLICE SEEM TO BELIEVE I DIDN'T DO IT,

BUT THERE WERE SOME THINGS AT THE CRIME SCENE THEY THOUGHT WERE STRANGE...

PLANNING TO LEAVE TWO DAYS BEFORE THEIR BODIES WERE FOUND.

EX-GIRLFRIEND

THEY WERE STILL DATING, AND THEY HAD MADE PLANS TO GO ON A ONE-WEEK TRIP TOGETHER,

EX-FRIEND

BROKE A WINDOW IN THE LIVING ROOM, UNLOCKED IT, AND PULLED THE CURTAIN ASIDE.

THE BURGLAR CLIMBED UP TO THE THIRD FLOOR, WHERE MY EX-FRIEND'S APARTMENT WAS,

BURGLAR

IT SEEMS SOMEONE HAD HEARD THAT THE APARTMENT WOULD BE EMPTY, AND PLANNED TO ROB THEM.

AND THERE, HE SAW THE TWO DEAD BODIES.

HE BROKE HIS LEG IN THE FALL AND COULDN'T MOVE, AND WAS DISCOVERED BY PEOPLE WHO'D HEARD THE SOUND.

HE PANICKED AND BACKED AWAY FROM THE WINDOW, FALLING OVER THE BALCONY AS HE DID SO.

AND THEN THEY DISCOVERED THE BODIES.

THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS DETERMINED TO BE POISON.

TRACES OF POISON WERE FOUND N BOTH THE BOTTLE AND THE GLASSES.

THEY FOUND A BOTTLE OF WINE THE TWO OF THEM HAD BOTH DRANK FROM, WITH THE GLASSES BOTH KNOCKED OVER.

THE FRONT DOOR AND ALL THE WINDOWS WERE LOCKED,

AND THE BJRGLAR CONFIRMED THAT THE WINDOW HE'D BROKEN HAD BEEN LOCKED TOO.

WHAT WAS THE ESTIMATED TIME OF DEATH?

BOTH OF THEM DIED SOMEWHERE FROM TEN AT NIGHT TO TWO IN THE MORNING ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE ON THE TRIP.

THEIR SUITCASES WERE BOTH IN THE ROOM AND PACKED.

AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, THEY DECIDED TO SHARE A BOTTLE OF WINE THAT HAD BEEN POISONED.

SO MY EX-GIRLFRIEND MUST HAVE DECIDED TO STAY THE NIGHT AT MY EX-FRIEND'S APARTMENT.

THEY DIDN'T LIVE TOGETHER,

AND YOU WERE WORKING HERE DURING THAT TIME,

SO YOU HAVE AN ALIBI?

THE REST OF THE NIGHT SHIFT ALL SAW ME HERE,

AND I'M ON THE SECURITY FOOTAGE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

I WAS HERE THE WHOLE TIME.

SO I COULDN'T HAVE JUST SAID I WAS GOING TO THE BATHROOM AND DONE IT THEN.

GRILL

THE CRIME SCENE IS .N THE NEXT PREFECTURE, TENS OF KLOMETERS AWAY.

YOU'RE RIGHT. IT IS STRANGE.

LET'S START WITH THIS.

THERE'S A FEW THINGS I'D LIKE TO ASK A BIT MORE ABOUT.

WHICH PART OF IT?

THAT WOULD MAKE ALIBIS WORTHLESS,

MAKING IT SUSPICIOUS THAT YOU EVEN HAVE ONE.

IF THEY WERE POISONED, THE POISON COULD HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE BOTTLE OR GLASSES WELL AHEAD OF TIME.

WHOEVER DID IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO BE THERE AT THE TIME OF DEATH.

THE FACT THAT THE BURGLAR BROKE IN WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION

IS STRANGE IN AND OF ITSELF.

...YEAH,

I GUESS.

FURTHER-MORE,

NO MATTER HOW STUPID THIS BJRGLAR WAS,

IF HE SAW A LIGHT ON IN AN APARTMENT WHERE THE RESIDENT SHOULD BE ON A TRIP,

HE WOULDN'T BREAK A WINDOW TO GET IN.

THE TWO OF THEM DIED AT THE SAME TIME IN THE LIVING ROOM,

SO THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A LIGHT LEFT ON.

BJT HE BROKE IN ANYWAY.

HE SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT THROUGH THE WINDOW,

...YEAH.

THE POLICE TOLD ME THAT THE LIGHTS WERE ALL OFF.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE ROOM WAS DARK.

THE LIGHTS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ON.

THE BURGLAR HAD TO USE A FLASHLIGHT TO SEE.

SO THERE COULD HAVE BEEN A THIRD PERSON THERE.

MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE.

DRINKING WINE TOGETHER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WITH NO LIGHTS ON

BUT ALL EXITS WERE LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE, SO THIS THIRD PERSON COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OUT.

WHICH WOULD MAKE STAYING TO TURN OFF ALL THE LIGHTS

MUCH TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR THEM.

THE NATURAL ASSUMPTION WOULD HAVE BEEN THAT THEY STAYED IN THE ROOM

THIRD PERSON

AND TURNED OFF ALL THE LIGHTS.

NOW THEN,

WHAT OTHER DETAILS DO YOU KNOW?

YOU'VE ALREADY FIGURED THAT MUCH OUT?

BASICALLY.

BUT THE HEAT HAD BEEN TURNED ON.

THE LIGHTS WERE ALL OFF,

IT WAS SET TO STAY AT THIRTY DEGREES.

YES.

IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY?

THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY REASON TO TJRN ON THE HEAT.

..D.D THEY MIX T JP WITH THE A.R CONDITIONING?

THERE'S ONE MORE THING.

EVERY SINGLE DOOR AND DRAWER IN THE ROOM HAD BEEN OPENED.

THE DRAWERS IN THE DRESSER AND DESK,

AND EVEN THE SUITCASES THEY'D PACKED FOR THEIR TRIP HAD BEEN OPENED.

THE CABINETS IN THE KITCHEN,

THE DOOR TO THE CLOSET,

NO, IT LOOKS LIKE HE PANICKED AFTER JUST GETTING INSIDE.

COULD IT HAVE BEEN THE BJRGLAR LOOKING FOR THINGS TO STEAL?

AND THE HEAT WAS ON, DESPITE IT BEING THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER.

EVEN THOUGH EVERYTHING BJT THE FRONT DOOR AND WINDOWS WAS OPEN,

NOT A SINGLE THING HAD BEEN TAKEN.

HE RAN AS SOON AS HE SAW THE BODIES,

WITHOUT TOUCHING ANYTHING IN THE ROOM.

NO ONE HAS ANY IDEA WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED IN THAT ROOM.

RIGHT?

WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT ANYONE WITH AN AL.BI FOR THAT PER.OD OF TIME ISN'T LIKELY TO BE THE CJLPR.T.

YEAH.

THE POLICE ARE WORKING UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE WAS A THIRD PERSON THERE,

WHO JSED SOME SORT OF TRICK...

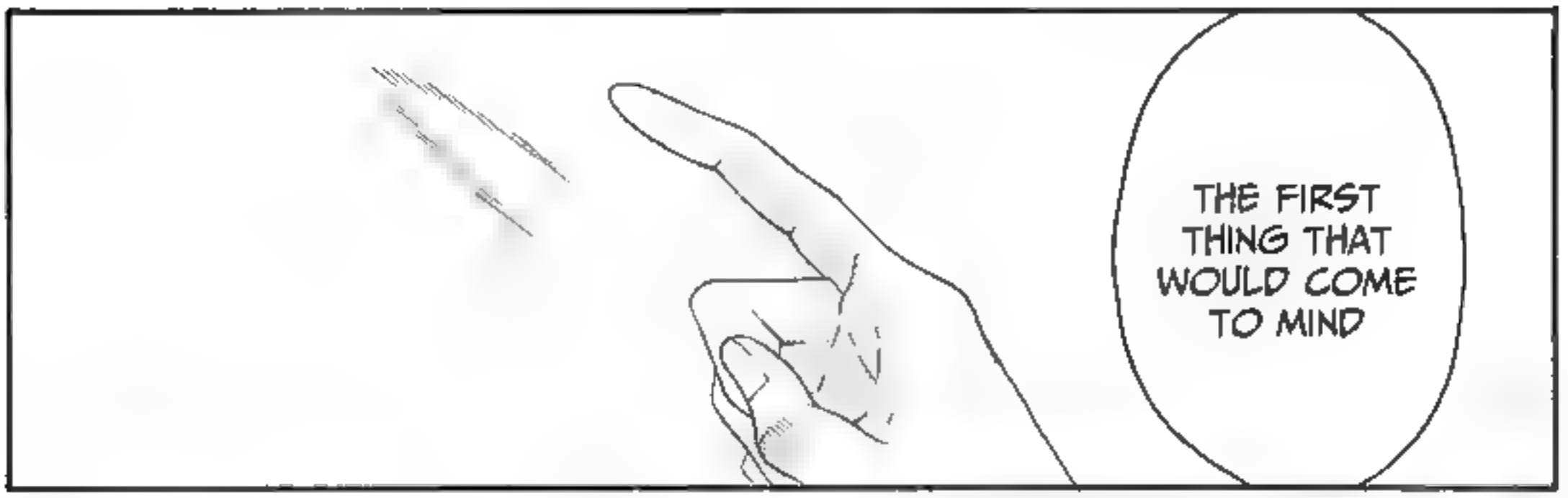
IT WOULD BE TOO RISKY TO TRY.

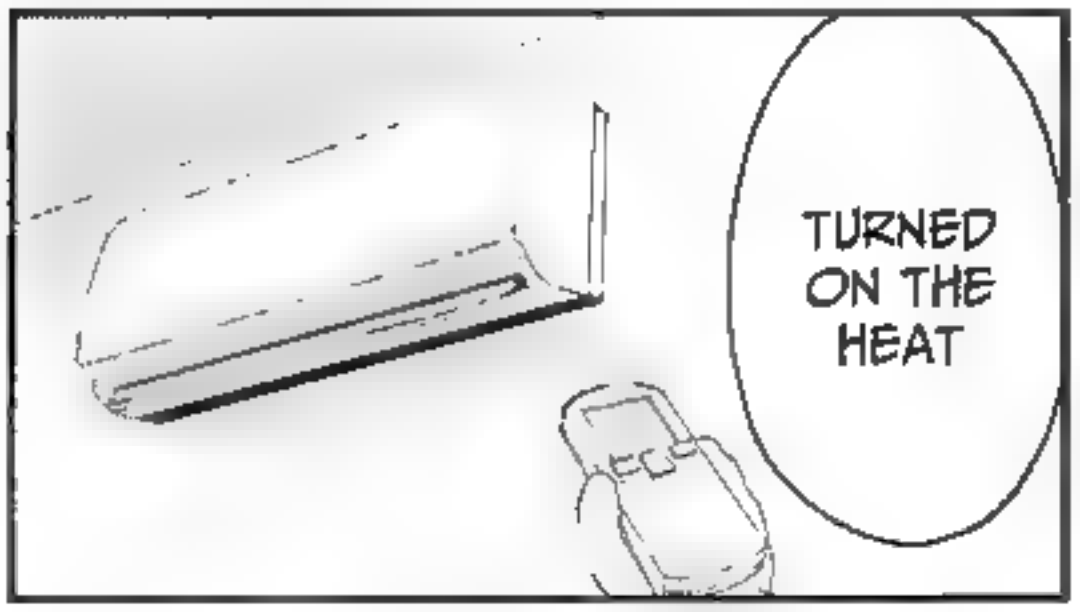
AND WHILE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS CASE,

IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE PREPARED POISON AHEAD OF TIME AND STILL BEEN THERE AT THE TIME OF DEATH,

THE THIRD PERSON WOULD HAVE HAD TROUBLE TRYING TO GET OUT.

EITHER WAY, THE PROBLEM IS THAT ALL THE EXITS WERE LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE.


THE FIRST THING THAT WOULD COME TO MIND


TURNED ON THE HEAT

AND OPENED EVERYTHING IN THE ROOM,

WOULD BE THAT EITHER YOUR EX-FRIEND OR EX-GIRLFRIEND POISONED THE WINE,
AND AFTER KILLING THE OTHER,

THEY COULD EVEN HAVE TAKEN THE POISON TOGETHER.
BUT IT DOESN'T ADD UP.

THEN TURNED OFF THE LIGHTS AND DRANK THE POISON THEMSELVES.

IT'S THE SAME PROBLEM WITH IF THERE WERE ANOTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE.

BUT EVEN IF THAT WERE THE CASE, WHY DO ALL THESE OTHER THINGS?

SO YOU THINK IT COULD HAVE BEEN EITHER A LOVERS' SUICIDE OR A FORCED DOUBLE SUICIDE?

MAYBE IT *WAS* A LOVERS' SUICIDE?

NO,

YOU'D WAIT UNTIL AFTER YOU GOT BACK.

YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT IF YOU HAD PLANS TO GO ON A LONG TRIP.

BUT...

THEY WOULDN'T MAKE PLANS TO GO ON A TRIP IN THE FIRST PLACE...

THOUGH IF ONE OF THEM WAS PLANNING A FORCED DOUBLE SUICIDE,

THEY'D KNOW THEY WEREN'T MEANT FOR EACH OTHER, AND GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

THEY COULD HAVE PROMISED THAT IF THE TRIP COULDN'T REKINDLE WHATEVER SPARK THEY HAD,

AND THIS TRIP WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE END OF THEIR RELA-TIONSHIP?

MAYBE THEY WERE PLANNING ON BREAKING UP,

MAYBE THEY THOUGHT THERE WAS NO POINT IN WAITING TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN,

AND ALREADY KNEW THE TRIP WOULD END WITH THE TWO OF THEM BREAKING UP.

BUT IF THEY'D MADE THAT PROMISE,

WHY WOULD ONE OF THEM KILL THEMSELVES AND THE OTHER BEFORE EVEN LEAVING?

THE OTHER ONE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THAT,

FOR EXAMPLE, F ONE OF THEM HAD ALREADY STARTED GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

SO THEY CARRIED OUT A FORCED DOUBLE SUICIDE.

NO ONE WOULD HAVE WONDERED WHERE THEY WERE, WOULD THEY?

IF THE TWO OF THEM WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ON A TRIP,

BUT THEN WHY PLAN A LONG TRIP?

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YOU'RE SAYING ALL THIS LIKE YOU ALREADY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.

RIBE,

IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT,

THEN THE KILLER IS YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND.

AND PLANNED TO COMMIT A FORCED DOUBLE SUICIDE.

YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND REALIZED THAT SHE WAS GOING TO LOSE HIM,

SUPPOSE YOUR EX-FRIEND HAD FOUND A NEW GIRL.

THEY AGREED TO GO ON A TRIP TOGETHER.

FOR THE REASONS WE JUST MENTIONED,

ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE, SHE POISONED YOUR EX-FRIEND,

THEN SHE TURNED OFF THE LIGHTS AND POISONED HERSELF.

OPENED EVERY CABINET AND DRAWER IN THE ROOM,

AND LOCKED THE DOOR.

THEN TURNED ON THE HEAT

IT'S NOT AN UNCOMMON THOUGHT AT ALL.

"BETTER WE SHOULD DIE TOGETHER THAN HE SHOULD BE STOLEN BY ANOTHER WOMAN."

WA-

WAIT A MINUTE!

THE FACT THAT IT WAS YOUR EX-FRIEND'S APARTMENT,

AND THE STRANGE THINGS THAT WERE DONE TO THE ROOM.

SO WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE WAS THE ONE WHO DID IT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAVE HAPPENED

IF SOMEONE *HADN'T* TRIED TO BREAK INTO THE APART-MENT?

SO...

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE REASON FOR DOING THOSE THINGS WAS?

THEY HAD TOLD EVERYONE THAT THEY WOULD BE AWAY ON A TRIP FOR THE NEXT WEEK.

SO NO ONE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO GET IN CONTACT WITH THEM.

WELL...

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RIGHT. EVEN THEIR PARENTS HADN'T HEARD FROM THEM.

YOU WOULD THINK THEY SHOULD SHOW UP AFTER TWO OR THREE DAYS.

ONCE A WEEK HAD PASSED AND NO ONE HAD SEEN THEM.

AND THINK THAT MAYBE SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED ON THE TRIP.

PEOPLE WOULD START TO WORRY,

THEY MIGHT NOTICE THAT THERE WEREN'T ANY LIGHTS ON AT NIGHT.

SINCE ALL THE LIGHTS IN THE ROOM WERE OFF,

ス...

THE TWO OF THEM DIED ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THEIR TRIP.

BUT ONLY AFTER ENOUGH TIME HAD PASSED.

THEY MIGHT GO TO THE BUILDING'S SUPERVISOR TO ASK HIM TO OPEN THE DOOR,

...YEAH.

THAT MAKES SENSE.

.T WOULD BE REASONABLE TO ASSJME THAT NO ONE WOULD DISCOVER THE BODIES FOR OVER TWO WEEKS.

IF THE BURGLAR HADN'T TRIED TO BREAK IN,

AND THE HEAT IN THE ROOM HAD BEEN TURNED ON.

THIS IS THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER,

WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE BODIES AFTER TWO WEEKS?

EVERY SINGLE PART OF THEIR BODIES WOULD HAVE LONG SINCE ROTTED AWAY.

THE STENCH OF DEATH WOULD BE UNBEARABLE.

THE SMELL WOULD HAVE GOTTEN INTO EVERY PART OF THE ROOM.

THE FACT THAT IT WAS A SMALL, NEARLY AIRTIGHT APARTMENT WOULD HAVE MADE IT EVEN WORSE.

EVERY SINGLE OBJECT IN THE ROOM WOULD REEK OF THEIR CORPSES.

IF THE OTHER RESIDENTS OF THE BUILDING WOULD HAVE COMPLAINED OF A BAD SMELL EVEN BEFORE TWO WEEKS HAD PASSED,

THE BODIES MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED EARLIER.

AND THE SUMMER HEAT WOULD HAVE MADE THEM ROT EVEN FASTER.

THEN IT WOULD HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN INTO EVERYTHING IN THE ENTIRE ROOM.

BUT IF IT HAD GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE OTHER PEOPLE NOTICED THE SMELL,

THE POINT OF ALL THAT?

BUT WHAT WOULD BE

BUT...

MOST LIKELY, YOU WOULD HAVE TO THROW OUT ANYTHING THAT SMELL GOT INTO.

THE SMELL OF A DEAD BODY ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN GET RID OF SO EASILY.

TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A SINGLE THING OF HIS.

YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND DIDN'T WANT YOUR EX-FRIEND'S NEW LOVER

HIS NEW LOVER WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO REMEMBER HIM BY.

BY MAKING THE ENTIRE ROOM AND EVERYTHING INSIDE IT SMELL OF DEATH,

SHE OPENED EVERY DRAWER AND CABINET IN THE ROOM.

IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THAT,

SHE WOULD KEEP HIM ALL TO HERSELF IN DEATH.

SHE WOULDN'T GIVE UP HIM OR ANYTHING HE OWNED.

佐久間

NOT JUST HIS BODY.

YOUR EX-GIRL-FRIEND'S, TOO.

HIS NEW LOVER WOULD HAVE NOTHING...

SO BY MAKING EVERYTHING SMELL LIKE HIS DEAD BODY,

AFTER TWO WEEKS WITH NO CONTACT, THE FIRST PERSON TO GO LOOKING FOR THEM AND OPEN THE DOOR TO THAT ROOM

WOULD BE HIS NEW LOVER.

BUT EVEN SO, SHE COULD STILL TAKE SOMETHING, RIGHT?

THINK ABOUT IT.

AND THE FULL FORCE OF THE STENCH OF DEATH WOULD HIT HER ALL AT ONCE.

SHE WOULD BE THE ONE TO DISCOVER THEIR BODIES,

TO EVEN THINK OF TAKING SOMETHING.

IT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO MAKE SURE SHE WOULD BE TOO HORRIFIED

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HE WAS THE ONE WHO STOLE HER FROM ME.

WHY WOULD MY EX-GIRLFRIEND BE SO OBSESSED WITH MY EX-FRIEND?

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BUT...

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ARE YOU SURE?

YOUR FRIEND WOULDN'T HAVE STOLEN YOUR GIRL-FRIEND,

BUT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

MAYBE IT WAS YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH YOUR EX-FRIEND

AND DECIDED TO BREAK UP WITH YOU.

HE COULD HAVE MADE HIMSELF OUT TO BE THE VILLAIN

SO THAT YOU WOULDN'T THINK BADLY OF HER.

IT DEFINITELY ISN'T IMPOSSIBLE.

IT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO MAKE HER TAKE EXTREME ACTION.

AND THEN TO HAVE THE MAN SHE WANTED SO MUCH BE STOLEN FROM HER BY ANOTHER WOMAN...

OF COURSE, I DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF FOR ANY OF THIS,

SO YOU CAN JUST IGNORE ALL OF IT.

?...

COULD YOU

HAVE THOUGHT OF DOING THE SAME THING BEFORE...?

...RIBE,

FOR YOU TO THINK OF ALL THIS RIGHT ON THE SPOT...

I DID TRY TO KILL THE WOMAN HE LOVED

TO MAKE SURE HE WOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER ME.

OH, NO.

I'D NEVER KILL THE BOY I LIKE.

RIGHT.

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...BUT

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I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

WELL THEN,

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RILL

THE POLICE CAME TO TALK TO ME AGAIN, BUT I DIDN'T TELL THEM ABOUT RIBE'S THEORY.

ALTHOUGH SEVERAL THINGS WERE UNUSUAL ABOUT IT, IT WAS ULTIMATELY DETERMINED TO BE A FORCED DOUBLE SUICIDE.

A WEEK LATER, THE CASE WAS CLOSED.

AND HAD BEEN DISCUSSING BREAKING UP WITH MY EX-GIRLFRIEND.

THEY HAD FOUND OUT THAT MY EX-FRIEND HAD INDEED FOUND A NEW LOVER,

THEY HAD BEEN PLANNING TO DECIDE WHETHER TO BREAK UP OR NOT ON THE TRIP THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE.

I THINK RIBE'S THEORY WAS COMPLETELY CORRECT.

AND RIBE, WHO SAW THROUGH EVERYTHING LIKE SHE HAD BEEN THERE,

IS JUST AS FEARSOME.

MY EX-GIRLFRIEND WAS TERRIFYING.

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHEN YOU TRIED TO KILL THE BOY YOU LIKE'S GIRLFRIEND,

BY THE WAY, RIBE,

WELL...

UM,

WHA!?

SHE NEARLY KILLED ME AND I HAD TO RUN FOR MY LIFE.

YEAH,

SHE WAS REALLY SCARY.

鎖部

Is there a human alive who could nearly kill her?

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER UNDERSTAND HER.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE BOY SHE LIKES.

RIBE IS STILL WORKING AT MY FAMILY RESTAURANT.

SO...

Liebe♥

BUT IN GERMAN, "LIEBE" MEANS "LOVER."

SHOULDN'T BE TOO FAR OFF.

THE DAY WHEN KUSARIBE, ALSO KNOWN AS RIBE, BECOMES SOMEONE'S LOVER

THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

Extra 4: A Day in the Life of Samon

THAT DAY 1

SAMON, WHO HAS GOTTEN MARRIED, IS CLEANING THE BATH.

BECAUSE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, HE IS USING A BRAND OF DETERGENT MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR BATHROOMS, FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BOTTLE.

HE WANTS THE BATH TO BE AS CLEAN AS POSSIBLE,

FOR HIS WIFE, WHO IS CURRENTLY HOLDING A GUN AND A SWORD AND RUNNING VERY FAST.

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BUT HIS WIFE PREFERS TAKING SHOWERS, SO THERE IS NOT MUCH POINT TO CLEANING THE BATH.

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THE MOLD ON THE WALL TILES NEEDS TO BE SCRAPED OFF!

DON'T STOP NOW, SAMON.

THAT DAY 2

SAMON, WHO HAS GOTTEN MARRIED, IS SEPARATING THE TRASH.

BURNABLE AND NOT BURNABLE.

RECYCLA-BLES AND PLASTICS.

HE CRUSHES EMPTY CANS TO COMPRESS THEM.

BECAUSE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, HE IS FOLLOWING HIS DISTRICT'S RULES TO THE LETTER, AND IS CALLING THE RELEVANT OFFICES WHEN HE HAS A QUESTION.

IT IS SAMON'S JOB TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH IN THE MORNING.

HE IS ON VERY GOOD TERMS WITH HIS NEIGHBORS.

HE EXCHANGES GREETINGS WITH LOCAL HOUSEWIVES HE MEETS ALONG THE WAY.

HE MADE SURE TO GREET THEM ALL WITH GIFTS WHEN HE MOVED IN.

THEY ARE SECRETLY SUSPICIOUS OF HIM.

BUT SINCE HIS WIFE IS KNOWN TO THEIR NEIGHBORS AS "EX-FRAULEIN YAMAMOTO,"

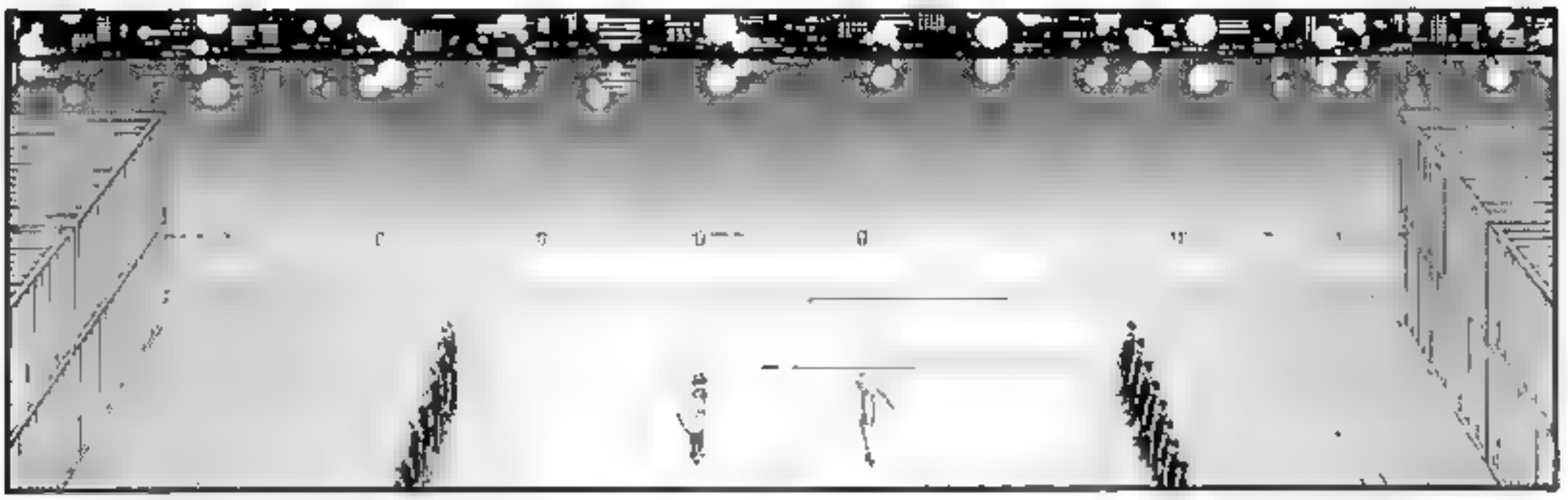
BECAUSE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

DON'T WORRY, SAMON!

IN TWO YEARS, YOU'LL BECOME HEAD OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL AND GAIN THEIR RESPECT!

THERE ARE SOME RUMORS GOING AROUND ABOUT HIM.

THAT DAY 3



IT IS A JOB FOR THE GOVERNMENT THAT CANNOT BE MADE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AND MUST BE PERFORMED WITH CARE.

MANY PEOPLE WHO CANNOT USE MAGIC ARE INVOLVED.

SAMON, WHO HAS GOTTEN MARRIED, IS DOING A JOB FOR HIS FAMILY.

THEY ARE NEGOTIATING THE RIGHTS TO THE HARBOR WITH THE FOREIGN MAFIA.

OH, HE HAS A GUN POINTED AT HIS HEAD NOW.

HE KNOWS THE MAN IS JUST TRYING TO INTIMIDATE HIM AND WILL NOT ACTUALLY SHOOT.

BUT SAMON IS CALM.

YOU ARE AN EXCELLENT NEGOTIATOR.

VERY GOOD, SAMON.

"WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE FRAULEIN YAMAMOTO'S HUSBAND! WE'RE SO SORRY!" THEY SAY.

I'm Sorry

IT SEEMS THEY HAVE REALIZED SOMETHING AND ARE SINCERELY APOLOGIZING.

10 Sorry Spread

WITH NOTHING ELSE OF NOTE HAPPENING.

THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL,

HIS WIFE IS VERY FAMOUS IN THE UNDER-WORLD SOCIETY.

THAT THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF HIS WIFE!

SAMON DOES NOT REALIZE

THAT DAY 4

SAMON IS SHOPPING AT HIS LOCAL SUPERMARKET.

BUT HE DOESN'T BUY TOO MANY BECAUSE THEY MIGHT GO BAD.

CUCUMBERS 30 YEN

VEGETABLES ARE ON SALE TODAY.

HE IS MAKING SURE TO CHECK FOR DISCOUNTS.

TWELVE-PACKS OF TOILET PAPER ARE ON SALE.

OH?

HE WILL BUY SOME.

.....

AH.

=

SALE

TOILET PAPER

(TWO-PLY)

WITH TAX 188 YEN

1 PER CUSTOMER

BUT THEY ARE LIMITED TO ONE PER CUSTOMER.

THAT IS TOO BAD.

SAMON WILL ASK FOR HIS COOPERATION!

PERFECT. YOSHINO IS HERE.

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YOU KNOW,

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN IN YOUR NEW APARTMENT.

YOU WERE A GREAT HELP TODAY.

I'VE REALLY BEEN TRYING TO CUT BACK ON EXPENSES.

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT IS.

IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE I'M THE HEAD THAT I NEED TO WORRY ABOUT SAVING MONEY.

I NEED TO COVER ANY CELEBRATIONS FOR WEDDINGS AND BIRTHS MY MEN HAVE...

WELL,

I'M JUST SURPRISED THE HEAD OF THE KJSARIBE FAMILY IS WORRIED ABOUT SUCH MUNDANE THINGS.

JUST A MINUTE.

OH?

BEING HIM SOUNDS REALLY HARD.

I NEED TO EAT THESE CANDIES BEFORE THEY EXPIRE.

LET'S HAVE SOME TEA.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE TALKED ALONE TOGETHER LIKE THIS, ISN'T IT?

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,

YES, IT IS.

.....

"TAKING CARE OF"...?

YOU WERE TAKING CARE OF THE PRINCESS, AND MAHIRO WAS WITH ME.

IS CURRENTLY WORKING AS A WAITRESS IN A FAMILY RESTAURANT.

IT SEEMS THAT THE PRINCESS

THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE.

NO WAY.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AS WELL.

YES,

HAKAZE IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY...?

"I SAW A YOUNG GIRL NAMED KUSARIBE WORKING AT A FAMILY RESTAJRANT.

IS SHE RELATED TO YOU?"

BUT THE OTHER DAY, WHEN I WAS TAKING OUT THE TRASH,

A WOMAN ASKED ME...

OF COURSE.

YOU GET ALONG REALLY WELL WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, HUH.

IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO THINK YOU'RE SUSPICIOUS, MAYBE YOU SHOULD CUT OFF THAT PONYTAIL...

Thanks

THEY'RE A BIT SUSPICIOUS OF ME BECAUSE I CAN'T TELL THEM WHAT MY JOB IS, SO I'M TRYING TO GET ON THE R GOOD SIDE.

IT'LL MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, TOO.

YEAH.

PROBABLY.

I THINK THE PRINCESS IS TRYING TO CHANGE HERSELF AS WELL.

I HAVE SOMETHING I MUST ASK YOU.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF WITH THE PRINCESS?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MEAN THAT YOU SHOULD ENTER A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRINCESS.

THAT MAKES YOU THE MOST SUITABLE FOR THIS TASK.

YOU CANNOT USE MAGIC, AND YOU HAVE NO TIES TO THE CLAN.

THAT DOESN'T SEEM HONEST, THOUGH.

AND YOU DON'T DISLIKE HER, EITHER.

YOU'RE SO HONEST, IT LOOPS BACK AROUND INTO BEING DISHONEST.

TRY IT OUT AND GO ON A DATE WITH HER.

I DON'T WANT THERE TO BE SOME HUGE MISUNDER-STANDING BETWEEN US.

WE'RE JUST FRIENDS RIGHT NOW.

SO KNOWING THAT, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO JUST NOT DO IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

IF WE STARTED DATING, WE'D BREAK UP RIGHT AWAY.

I'M JUST A BORING GUY.

I WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO LOOK AT HER AFTERWARD.

BEING CRUELLY DUMPED BY THE PRINCESS

WOULD BE PERFECT FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

ハア…

THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

SO YOU SHOULD FEEL WHAT IT'S LIKE TO PLAY THE VILLAIN.

YOU *ARE* A BAD PERSON.

ヒッ

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO FIND A BAD PERSON TO GO THROUGH THAT?

WHY ME?

NOTHING THAT COULD HAPPEN WOULD POSSIBLY MAKE YOU FEEL WORSE.

YOU'VE ALREADY FELT THE PAIN OF YOUR GIRLFRIEND COMMITTING SUICIDE.

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING ONE CAN DO ABOUT THE LOVE AFFAIRS OF OTHER PEOPLE, ANYWAY.

IF YOU SIMPLY LIVE AS WHO YOU ARE,

THEN THAT IS FINE AS WELL.

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL, THEN.

ちりりん

I REALLY CAN'T TRUST YOU AT ALL.

THAT NIGHT

NOW THAT YOSHINO HAS LEFT, SAMON IS ALONE.

HIS WIFE IS BUSY OVERSEAS.

HE EATS DINNER BY HIMSELF,

TAKES A BATH BY HIMSELF,

AND GOES TO SLEEP BY HIMSELF.

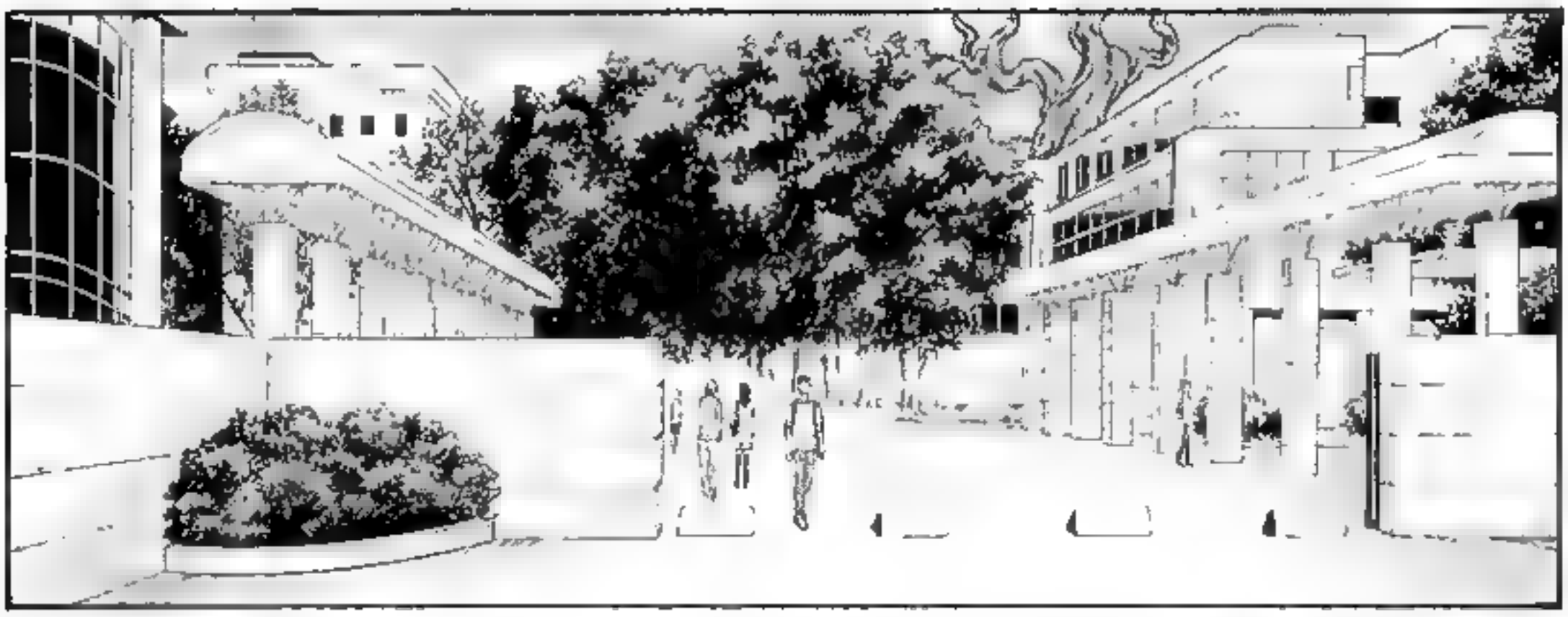
SWEET DREAMS,

SAMON.

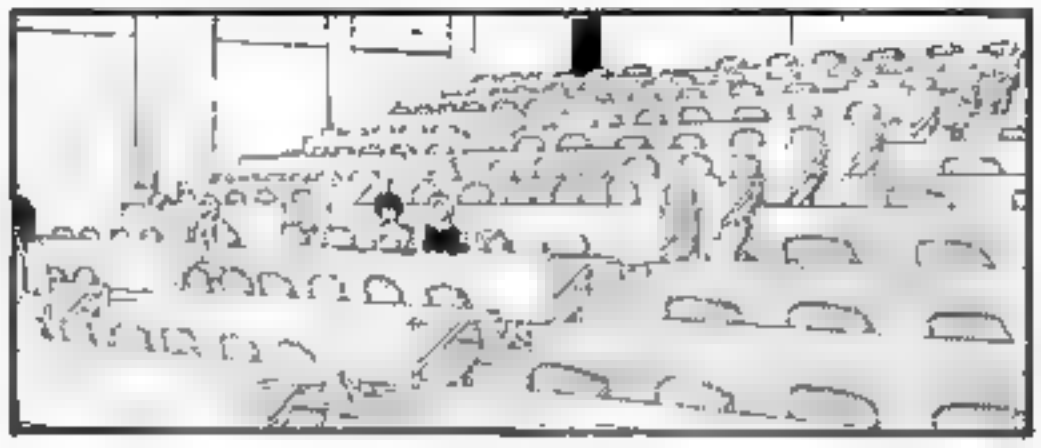
絶園のテンペスト

THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

Extra 5: The Waiting Woman



SAKURAKO,
I GOTTA TELL YOU SOMETHING.



YOU KNOW THAT HUGE TREE
ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE UNIVERSITY?

?……

WHO GOES TO THE TREE EVERY DAY AND WAITS THERE FOR AN HOUR?

HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY ABOUT THE WOMAN

APPARENTLY SHE USED TO LIVE THERE,

SO,

THIS WOMAN WHO VISITS THE TREE EVERY DAY...

IT HAPPENED ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

BUT WHEN THE TREE APPEARED, IT ABSORBED HER HOUSE AND GOT EVEN BIGGER.

SHE LIVED WITH HER HUSBAND IN THEIR HOUSE THERE.

AND HER HUSBAND WALKED OUT.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE TREE APPEARED, THEY GOT IN A HUGE FIGHT,

BUT SHE COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH HER HUSBAND AFTER THAT.

SHE HADN'T BEEN INSIDE THE HOUSE AT THE TIME,

AND THE NEXT EVENING, THE TREE APPEARED AND THE HOUSE WAS DESTROYED.

BUT SHE NEVER GAVE UP.

SO SHE THOUGHT HE MIGHT HAVE DIED.

THE ENTIRE WORLD WAS IN A PANIC,

SHE THOUGHT THAT IF HE WAS ALIVE, HE WOULD COME BACK TO THE PLACE THEIR HOUSE USED TO BE,

SO EVERY DAY, SHE GOES THERE AND WAITS FOR AN HOUR.

THEY NEVER MADE ANY SORT OF PROMISE,

BUT SHE STILL BELIEVES IN THE ONE LINK TO HER HUSBAND SHE HAS LEFT.

...SO WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

ISN'T THAT JUST SAD?

I THINK YOU'VE STILL GOT A THING FOR THE GUY YOU DUMPED, AND YOU HAVEN'T TALKED TO HIM SINCE, NOT EVEN TO TELL HIM YOU MOVED.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO LEARN FROM THAT?

AND BESIDES, IT'S JUST A STORY.

YOU'RE LIKE A PRINCESS, WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO CARRY YOU AWAY.

YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM HOW PURE SHE IS.

AND THAT WOMAN'S JUST WAITING FOR HER HUSBAND, EVEN THOUGH SHE DOESN'T KNOW IF HE'S ALIVE OR NOT.

AND THEY CALLED THE POLICE TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE WAS DOING.

SINCE NO ONE LIVES THERE ANYMORE, PEOPLE THOUGHT A WOMAN BEING THERE EVERY DAY WAS SUSPICIOUS,

SORRY, BUT IT'S REAL.

I'VE SEEN HER MYSELF.

AND SHE'S STILL THERE.

THEIR BOND WILL BE STRONGER THAN EVER.

I'M SURE THAT IF SHE'S EVER REJNITED WITH HER HUSBAND,

IT'D BE NICE, WOULDN'T IT?

YOU THINK YOUR BOYFRIEND WOULD EVER COME BACK TO SOMEONE AS CRUEL AS YOU?

I DON'T NEED HIM BACK.

A WEEK AFTER THAT CONVERSATION,

THE TREE DISAPPEARED FROM THE WORLD AS SUDDENLY AS IT APPEARED.

WHEN IT SHOWED UP LAST YEAR, PEOPLE THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS ENDING,

BUT THEN LIFE WENT ON LIKE USUAL.

SHEESH.

WHETHER IT'S HERE OR NOT, NOTHING CHANGES.

FOR ALL WE KNOW, IT MIGHT HAVE JUST BEEN A DREAM.

ALL THOSE WEIRD THINGS HAPPENED, BUT NOTHING CHANGED AT ALL.

IT JUST KEPT ON GOING.

AND THEN WHEN IT DISAPPEARED A MONTH AGO,

I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING NOW...

.....

OH, HEY, YUKI.

MEGU!?

I ACTUALLY CAME HERE CAUSE I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?

OH, FRAULEIN TOLD ME.

WHAT KIND OF NAME IS FRAULEIN?

HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?

I NEVER TOLD YOU WHERE I MOVED TO.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE,

SO YOU CAN BUY ME SOME ICE CREAM.

...WHAT-EVER.

MY EX-BOYFRIEND.

...THIS IS MEGUMU HANEMURA,

I SWITCHED TO A DIFFERENT COLLEGE AT AROUND THE SAME TIME, SO I MOVED,

AND HAVEN'T TALKED WITH HIM SINCE.

SO I DUMPED HIM ON A WHIM.

THE WORLD WAS GOING TO HELL AND HE WAS THE KIND OF PERSON YOU COULDN'T RELY ON AT ALL,

I KNOW.

SO IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT DEPENDING ON WHAT HE SAYS, WE COULD MAKE UP.

I KNOW THAT I WAS JUST PISSED OFF,

AND TOLD HIM WE WERE BREAKING UP ON A SPUR OF THE MOMENT.

I TRIED A BUNCH OF STUFF BUT NOTHING WORKED OUT.

NAH, NOT YET.

DID YOU EVER FIND A JOB?

DOING THIS AND THAT.

TRAVELING AROUND THE WORLD,

A BUNCH OF STUFF? LIKE WHAT?

HE'S JUST AS CAREFREE AS EVER.

REALLY?

I WAS NEARLY KILLED A HUNDRED TIMES RECENTLY.

A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I WAS NEARLY KILLED.

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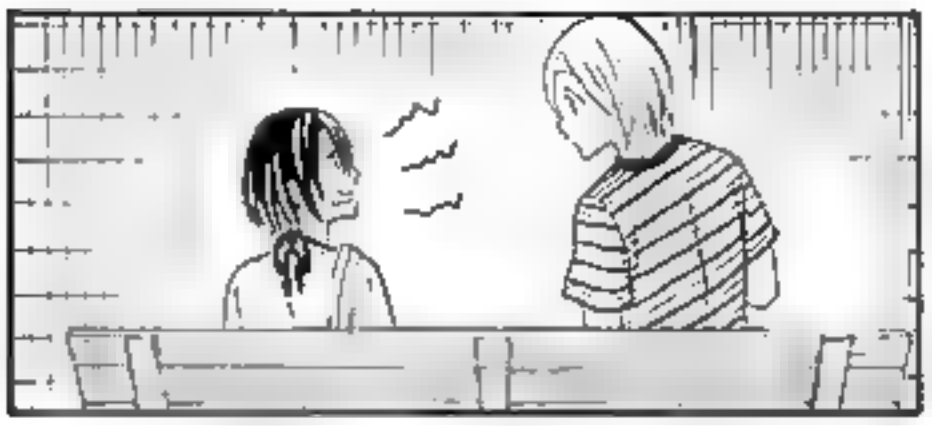
I'M NOT JOKING AROUND!
I WAS LITERALLY ABOUT TO BE KILLED!



WHILE YOU WERE OFF PLAYING AROUND, I WAS IN ACTUAL TROUBLE.
SO LISTEN CLOSELY.

THERE'S A STORY
ABOUT A WOMAN WHO WAS WAITING BY THAT HUGE TREE FOR HER HUSBAND TO COME BACK...

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I HEARD IT FROM MY FRIEND,

SO I WENT TO THE TREE TO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF.

BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE A WOMAN AS PURE AS THAT ACTUALLY EXISTED.

AND THERE SHE WAS.

I CALLED OUT TO HER.

SHE WAS LOOKING AT THE TREE, LOST IN THOUGHT.

YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND GOT IN A FIGHT AND HE LEFT YOUR HOUSE.

...I HEARD THAT THE NIGHT THE TREE APPEARED,

SHE TOLD ME BASICALLY THE SAME STORY MY FRIEND HAD.

SHE ANSWERED, "YES."

DID YOUR HUSBAND *REALLY* LEAVE?

HERE'S WHAT I THINK HAPPENED.

SO I ASKED HER...

BUT I DIDN'T LIKE IT.

YOU FOUGHT WITH YOUR HUSBAND THE NIGHT BEFORE THE TREE APPEARED,

AND ACCIDENTALLY KILLED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?

SO YOU MADE UP A STORY ABOUT HIM LEAVING,

AND HID THE BODY SOMEWHERE IN YOUR HOUSE.

YOUR NEIGHBORS MIGHT HAVE HEARD THE SOUNDS OF YOU FIGHTING,

BUT THEN THIS TREE APPEARED.

THAT THE NEXT DAY, WHEN THINGS HAD CALMED DOWN, YOU'D GET RID OF THE BODY.

AND YOU THOUGHT TO YOURSELF

BUT IT SWALLOWED UP YOUR ENTIRE HOUSE,

NOT LEAVING EVEN A SPOON BEHIND.

YOU HAPPENED TO BE OUT,

WAS IT ABSORBED TOO?

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HUSBAND'S CORPSE?

BUT NO ONE KNOWS IF THAT'S TRUE FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE ALREADY DEAD WHEN IT APPEARED.

WE KNOW THAT IT CAN ABSORB PEOPLE WHO WERE TURNED INTO METAL,

YOU WERE WORRIED.

SO

THE BODY WASN'T ABSORBED, AND WAS JUST CAUGHT SOMEWHERE HIGH UP ON A BRANCH OR IN THE TRUNK?

WHAT IF, WHEN THIS TREE APPEARED,

IF THAT WAS WHAT HAPPENED, IT COULD STILL BE UP THERE NOW.

AND THAT WOULD BE PROOF THAT YOU MURDERED HIM, WOULDN'T IT?

YOU WERE WORRIED THAT MIGHT HAPPEN, SO YOU HAD TO COME HERE EVERY DAY.

NOT MANY PEOPLE COME HERE,

BUT SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE FOUND IT.

ONCE THE BODY DECOMPOSED AND ONLY A SKELETON WAS LEFT, A STRONG WIND COULD SHAKE IT OUT OF THE TREE.

SO YOU COME HERE EVERY DAY TO MAKE SURE IT HASN'T FALLEN.

I HAD THOUGHT.

THAT SHE WOULD TURN TO ME WITH A HORRIFIED LOOK ON HER FACE...

IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY THAT I COULDN'T DO A THING TO RESIST.

SHE PINNED ME TO THE GROUND, AND GRABBED MY NECK WITH INCREDIBLE FORCE.

I DIDN'T THINK I'D ACTUALLY BE *RIGHT.*

SHUT UP.

...SOUNDS LIKE YOU SAID TOO MUCH AGAIN.

HOW DID YOU GET AWAY?

...ANYWAY,

THE TREE VANISHED.

RIGHT THEN,

?.....

THAT WAS THE DAY WHEN THOSE LIGHTS THAT LOOKED LIKE BUTTERFLIES APPEARED,

!!

AND THE TREE VANISHED FROM THE WORLD.

WHEN THE TREE STARTED TO DISAPPEAR, THE WOMAN LOOKED DAZED, AND FORGOT TO KEEP STRANGLING ME.

AND WHEN IT WAS GONE, SHE LET GO OF ME,

AND RAN TO SEARCH THE SPOT WHERE THE TREE HAD BEEN.

SHE DID THAT FOR A LITTLE BIT, THEN THREW HER HANDS IN THE AIR AND SHOUTED,

"THEY'RE GONE! THE BODIES ARE GONE!

THEY'RE ALL GONE!"

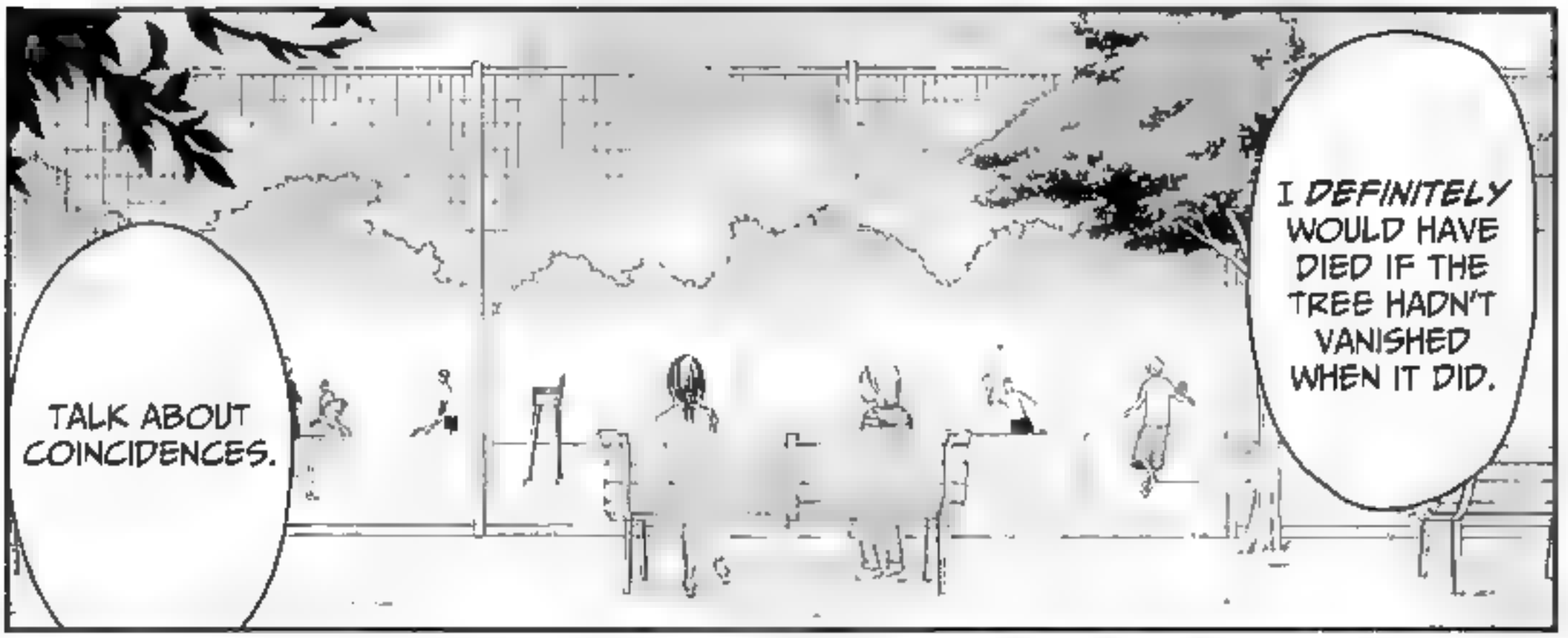
"THEY'RE ALL GONE!"

SHE STARTED LAUGHING LIKE A MANIAC.

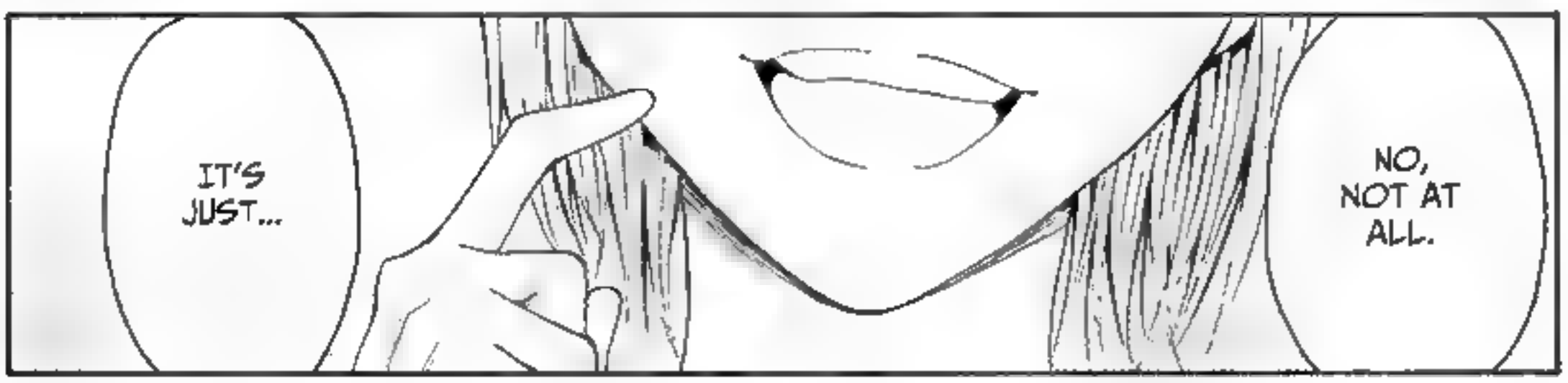
I GUESS SHE REALLY WASN'T AS PURE AS MY FRIEND THOUGHT SHE WAS AFTER ALL.

I GOT AWAY AS FAST AS I COULD, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER AFTER THAT.

I NEARLY DIED.


TALK ABOUT COINCIDENCES.
I *DEFINITELY* WOULD HAVE DIED IF THE TREE HADN'T VANISHED WHEN IT DID.

DOES HEARING ABOUT ME ALMOST DYING MAKE YOU THAT HAPPY?
WHAT'S THAT SMILE FOR?
...MEGJ,


IT'S JUST...
NO, NOT AT ALL.

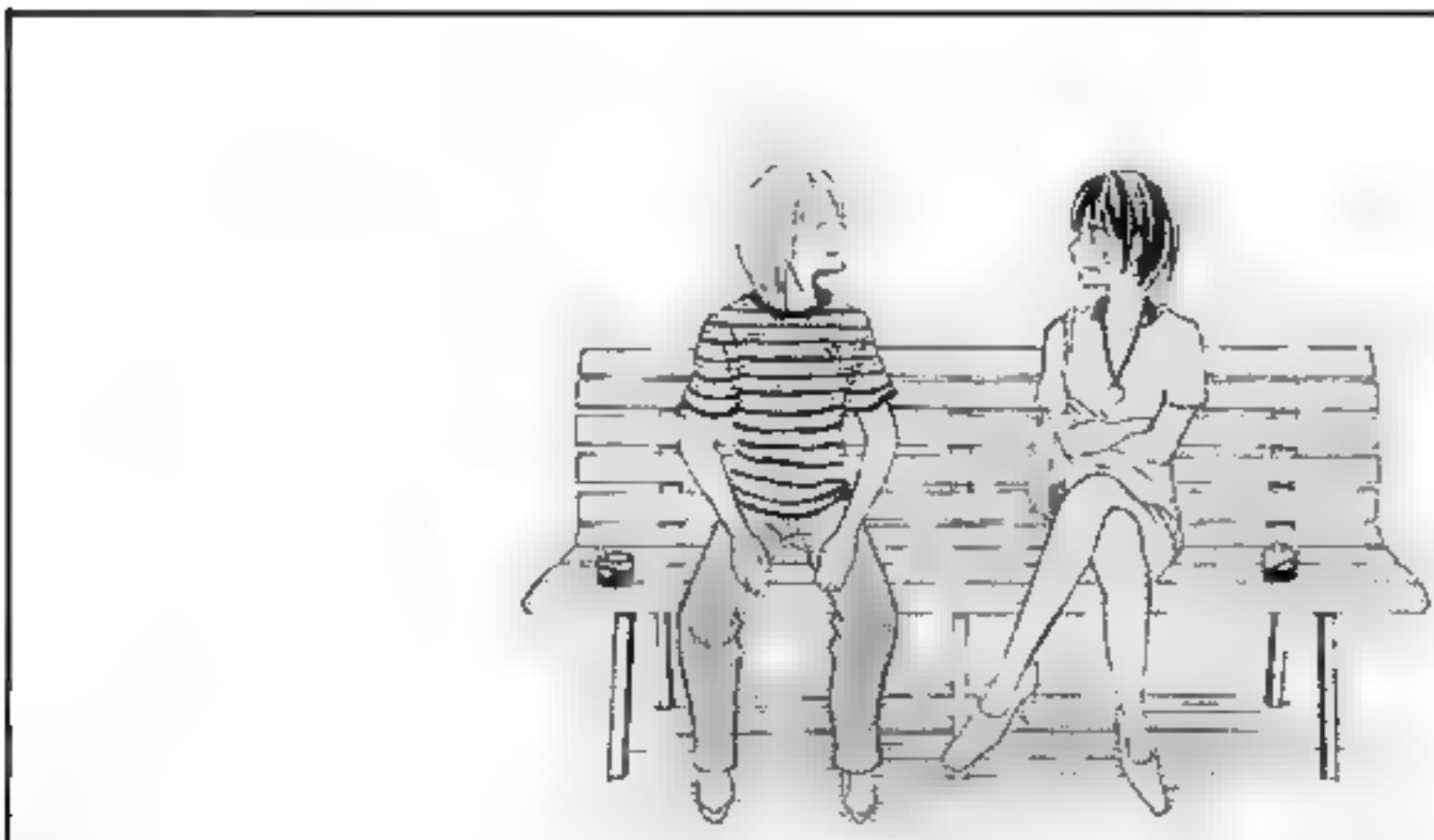
KNOWING THAT MAKES THE WHOLE BATTLE WORTH IT.

I'M JUST REALLY GLAD I DECIDED TO FIGHT.

?

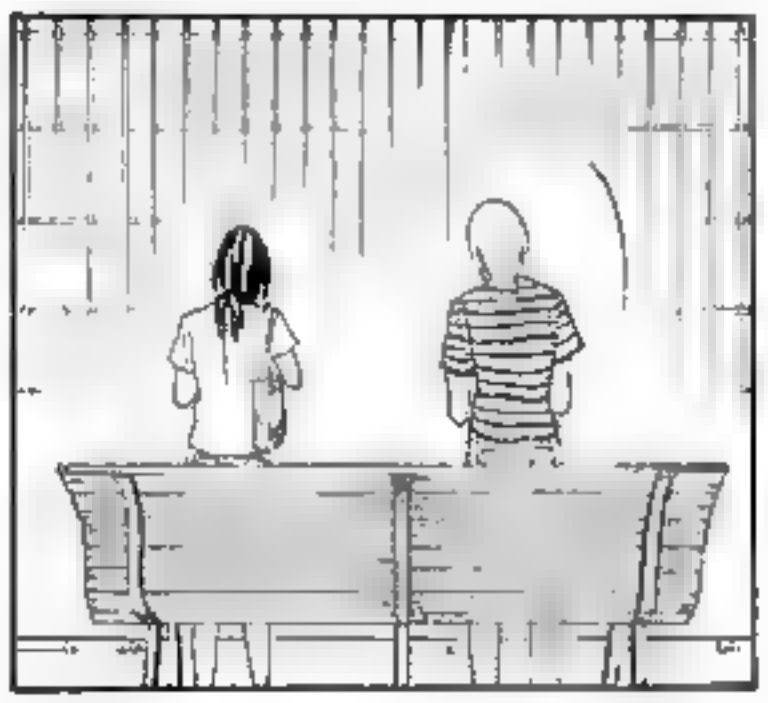
IT WAS

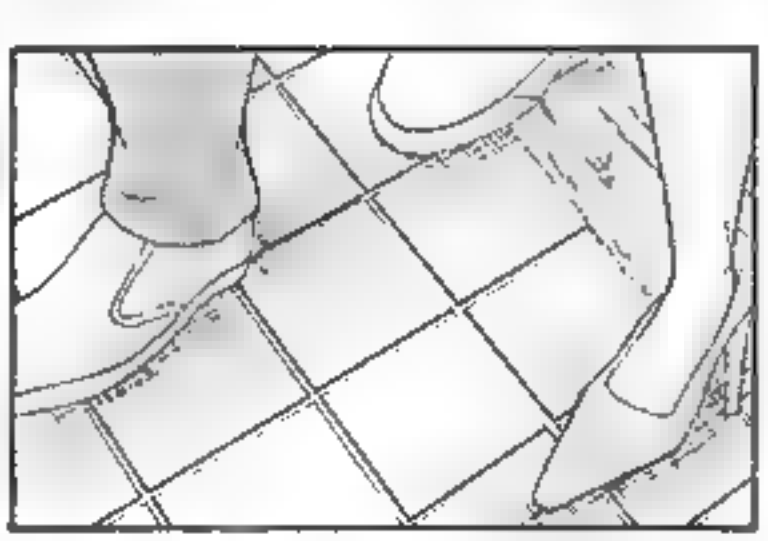
A REALLY GREAT COINCIDENCE.



IN THE END, WE GOT BACK TOGETHER ONE STEP AT A TIME AND STARTED DATING AGAIN.

BUT THAT MEGU WAS THE ONE WHO SAVED MY LIFE...





I DIDN'T LEARN THAT UNTIL MUCH LATER.

THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

絶園のテンペスト

Extra 6: Curtain Call - Applause

THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

WE REALLY SHOULD GET OUR LICENSES.

I DON'T THINK IT'S WORTH IT YET.

YOU HAVE TO PAY TO GET ONE, AND THEN YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THE CAR ITSELF.

THEY'LL LET US GET INTO MORE PLACES, TOO.

AND WE HAVEN'T GOT THE TIME TO TAKE LESSONS, EITHER...

IT'S LATE.

YOU WANNA GRAB SOME-THING TO EAT?

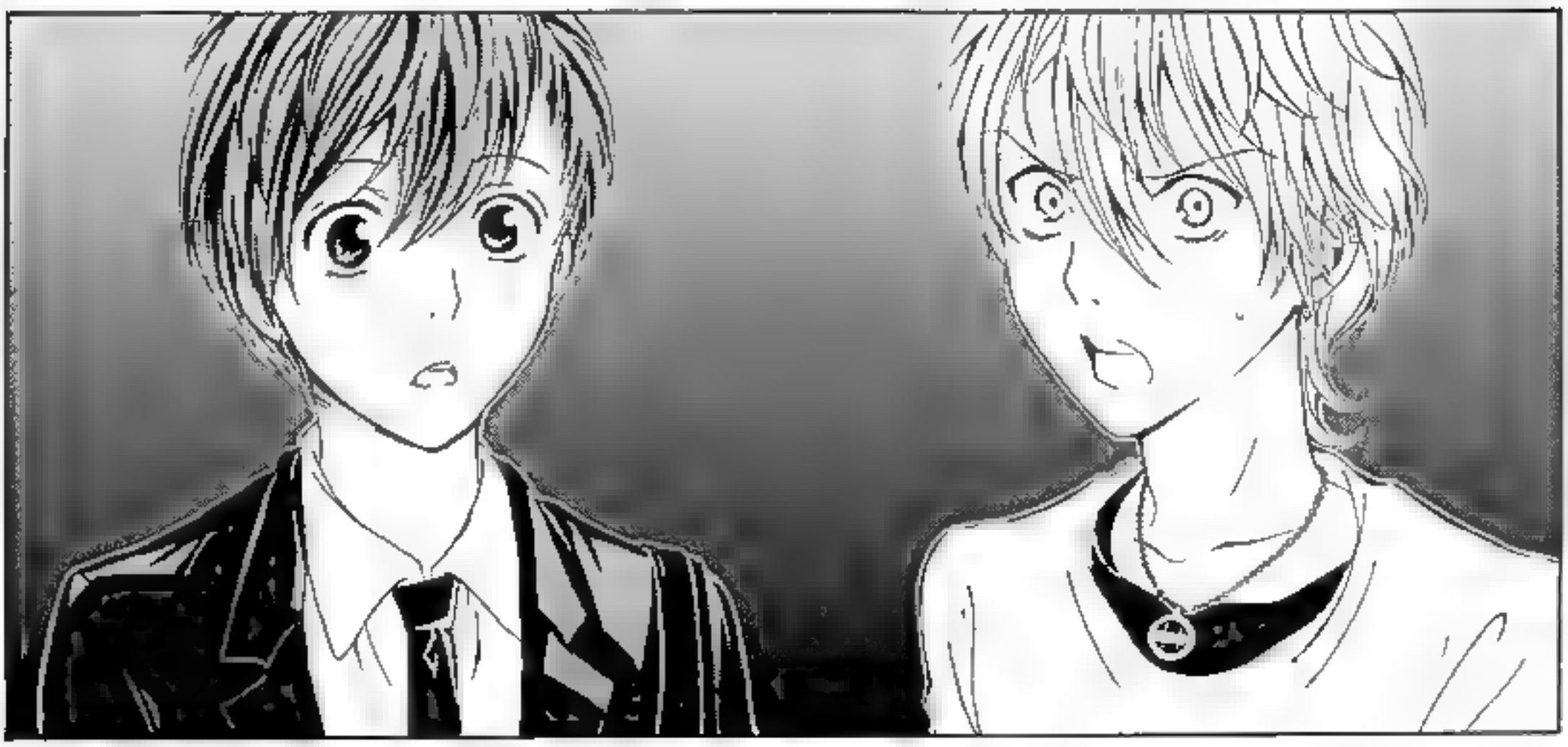
SURE.

GRILL

PERFECT, THERE'S A FAMILY RESTAURANT.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL YOU...

WELCOME!



AAAA

SO *THIS* IS THE FAMILY RESTAURANT YOU WERE WORKING AT.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

OH.

SO WHY DO YOU HAVE A SERVICE JOB?

SOMETHING'S JUST *WRONG* ABOUT THAT.

...YOU KNEW SHE HAD A JOB?

WELL, I'D HEARD RUMORS.

IS ANYTHING THE MATTER, SIRS?

SOME-THING WRONG, RIBE?

LET ME SHOW YOU TO YOUR SEATS.

PLEASE,

ス…

PLEASE PRESS THE BUTTON ONCE YOU'VE DECIDED ON YOUR ORDERS.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT, RIBE?

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I PICKED THIS PLACE BECAUSE I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER COME HERE...

ER, NO, I'M SORRY.

UM... SOME PEOPLE I KNOW JUST CAME IN.

BJT YOU LOOKED REALLY SHAKEN, EVEN FOR THAT...

THE BOY YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH?

IS ONE OF THEM

WE DON'T HAVE MANY CUSTOMERS, SO...

ALRIGHT. I'LL GIVE SOMEONE ELSE THAT TABLE.

.....

I CAN'T RUN FROM THIS.

NO! I CAN DO IT...

SO,

HE CALLED HAKAZE "RIBE."

I FEEL LIKE HER BE.NG A WAITRESS IS JUST ASKING FOR TROUBLE.

YEAH, SO WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT...

IT'S JUST A SHORTENED VERSION OF HER LAST NAME.

TO KEEP THIS OPPORTUNITY ALL TO OURSELVES?

WOULDN'T IT BE JUST *TERRIBLE*

MULTIPLE SELECTION

SEND MESSAGE

CONTACTS

SEND

佐久間

WHICH WOULD MAKE HIM...

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE BOY RIBE LIKES,

HE'S A BAD GUY WITH MAJOR ISSUES.

HE'S THE ONE WHO'S TOYING WITH RIBE!

THAT ONE!

WHILE THE OTHER ONE LOOKS LIKE A MODEL HUMAN BEING.

JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM, I CAN TELL HE'S GOT NO PROBLEM BREAKING EVERY RULE IN THE BOOK...

YOU CAN DO IT, RIBE!

YOU'RE THE ONE IN THE RIGHT HERE!

GRILL
レストラン

EEK!

WELCO...

TABLE FOR A COUPLE, PLEASE!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER,

PRINCESS.

...A TABLE FOR TWO, THEN.

RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE.

《〇〇》

GAH!

HAVE ENOUGH FREE TIME TO BE HERE?

...DO YOU *REALLY*

WE WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO EAT, AND HAPPENED TO FIND THIS PLACE.

WE SIMPLY HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA.

NOT AT ALL.

HE MUST HAVE SENT OUT A MASS TEXT OR SOMETHING!

MAHIRO DID THIS, DIDN'T HE!?

LIKE HELL YOU WERE!

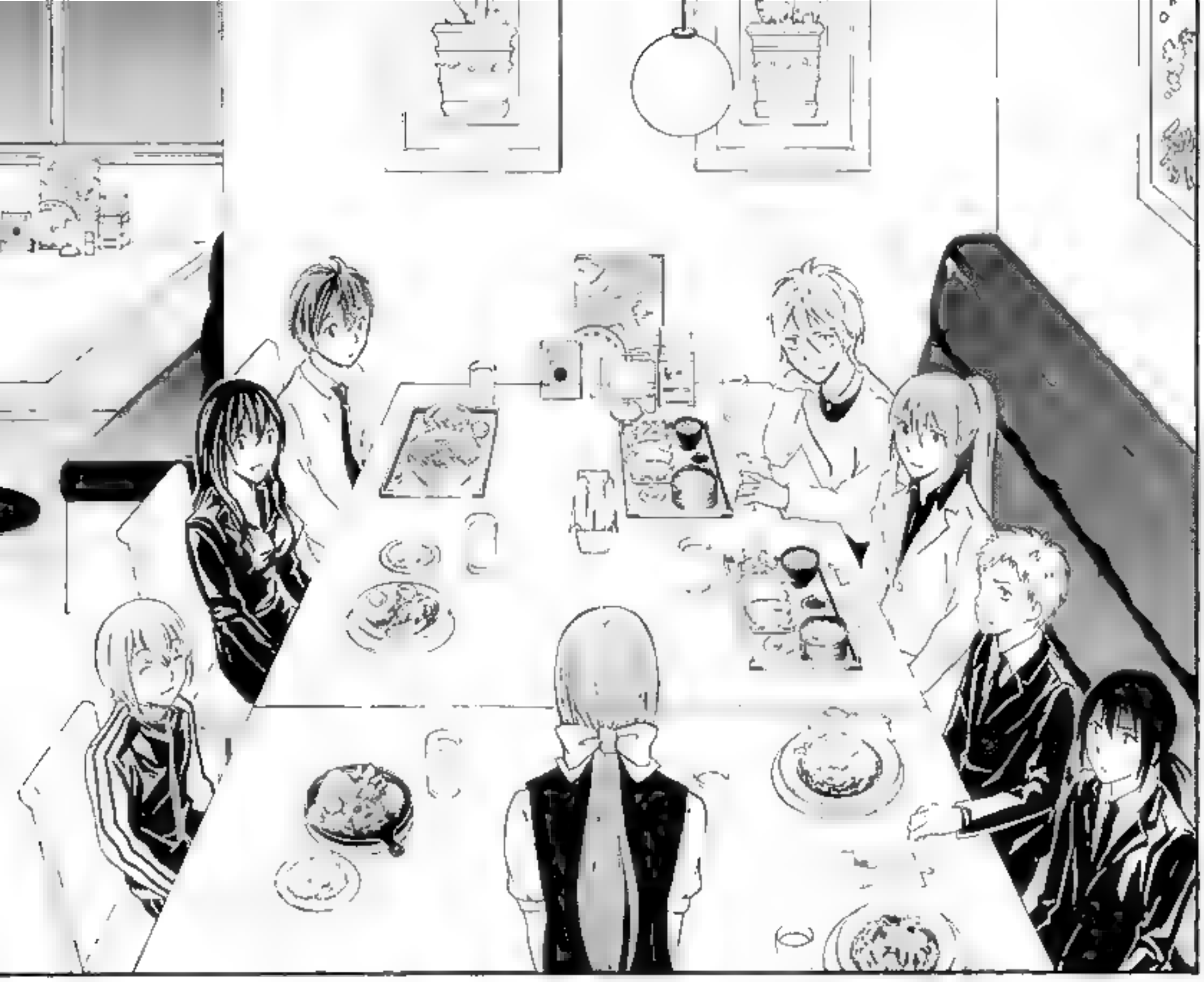
A TABLE FOR THREE, THEN

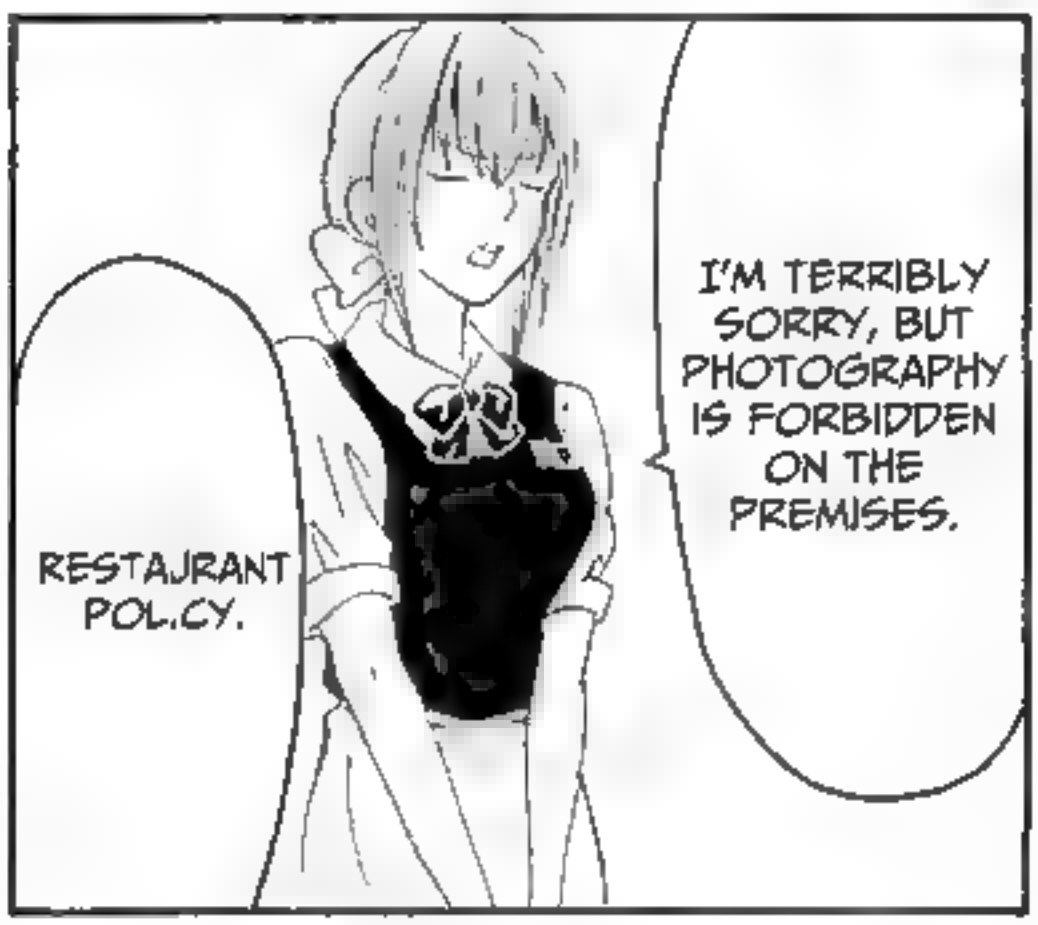
...PLEASE EXCUSE ME

WE COULD FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE MANAGER.

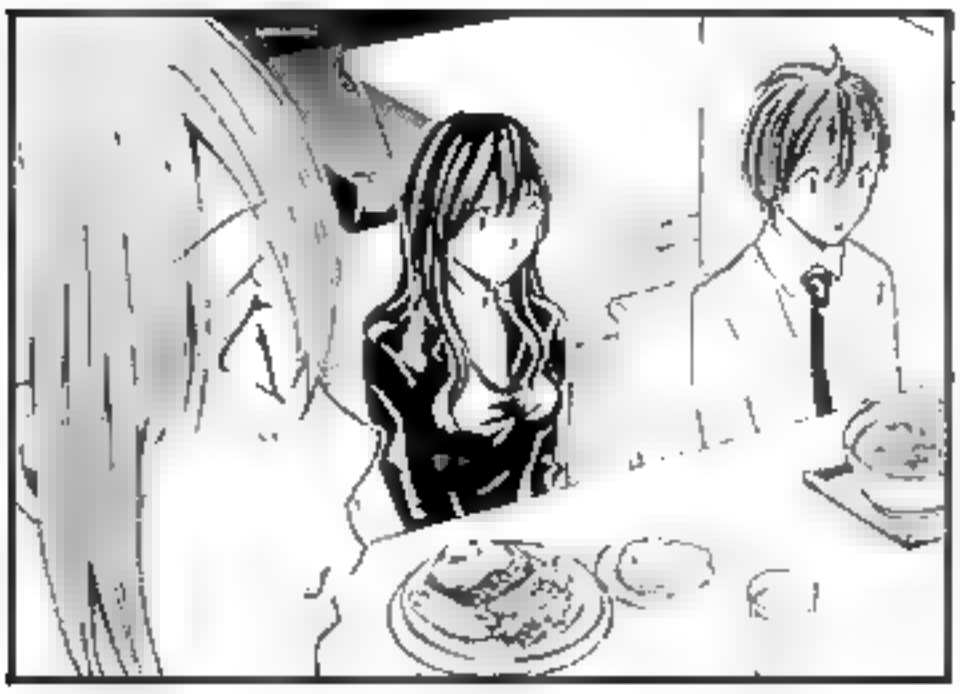
NOW THAT WON'T DO, HAKAZE. WE'RE CUSTOMERS.

...WILL THAT BE ALL FOR NOW?




I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT PHOTOGRAPHY IS FORBIDDEN ON THE PREMISES.
RESTAJRANT POL.CY.

HEY HAKAZE, HAYAKAWA WAS BUSY,
SO CAN I TAKE A PHOTO OF YOU IN THAT UNIFORM TO SEND TO HIM?


YOU WERE JUST WAITING FOR YOSHINO'S TERMNAL TO GO OFF, WEREN'T YOU?
WOW, THAT WAS STIFF.

WHAT, AM I BOTHERING SOMEONE?

HAKAZE DOESN'T LOOK BOTHERED, DOES SHE?

COULD YOU NOT SAY IT LIKE THAT?

MAHIRO,

ぐぬぬ…!

……

THANK YOU.

THAT'LL BE ALL FOR NOW.

ハア

IS THIS JOB NOT GOING TO WORK AFTER ALL?

AM I JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR IT?

GH...

EVERYONE JUST STARES AT ME,

AND I HAVE TO BE POLITE AND WEAR THIS CUTESY UNIFORM...

...MAY I HAVE A WORD?

佐久間

ガチャ

トイレの

WE DO SOMETHING WRONG?

HUH?

ABOUT KUSARIBE.

IT'S ABOUT RIBE...

NO.

JUST THINK ABOUT THE LONG TERM.

RIGHT, YOU'RE HAKAZE'S BOSS.

I'VE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO PROBLEMS WITH KUSARIBE. SHE'S AN EXCELLENT EMPLOYEE.

I KNOW YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING SHE'S NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS JOB CAUSE OF THE WAY SHE WAS BROUGHT UP.

ME?

THE PROBLEM IS YOU.

AND SHE THINKS IT'S ALL FOR NOTHING.

KUSARIBE IS WORKING AS HARD AS SHE CAN TO APPEAR PERFECT,

THAT'S YOUR FAULT, ISN'T IT!?

UH...

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HER...

HOW MANY TIMES HAS SHE TRIED TO CONFESS JUST FOR YOU TO BRUSH HER OFF?

HOLD IT. YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.

IT'S THE GUY WHO CAME IN WITH ME.

I'M NOT THE ONE SHE LIKES.

HUH?

佐久間

ハアア

I'LL LET THAT SLIDE FOR NOW.

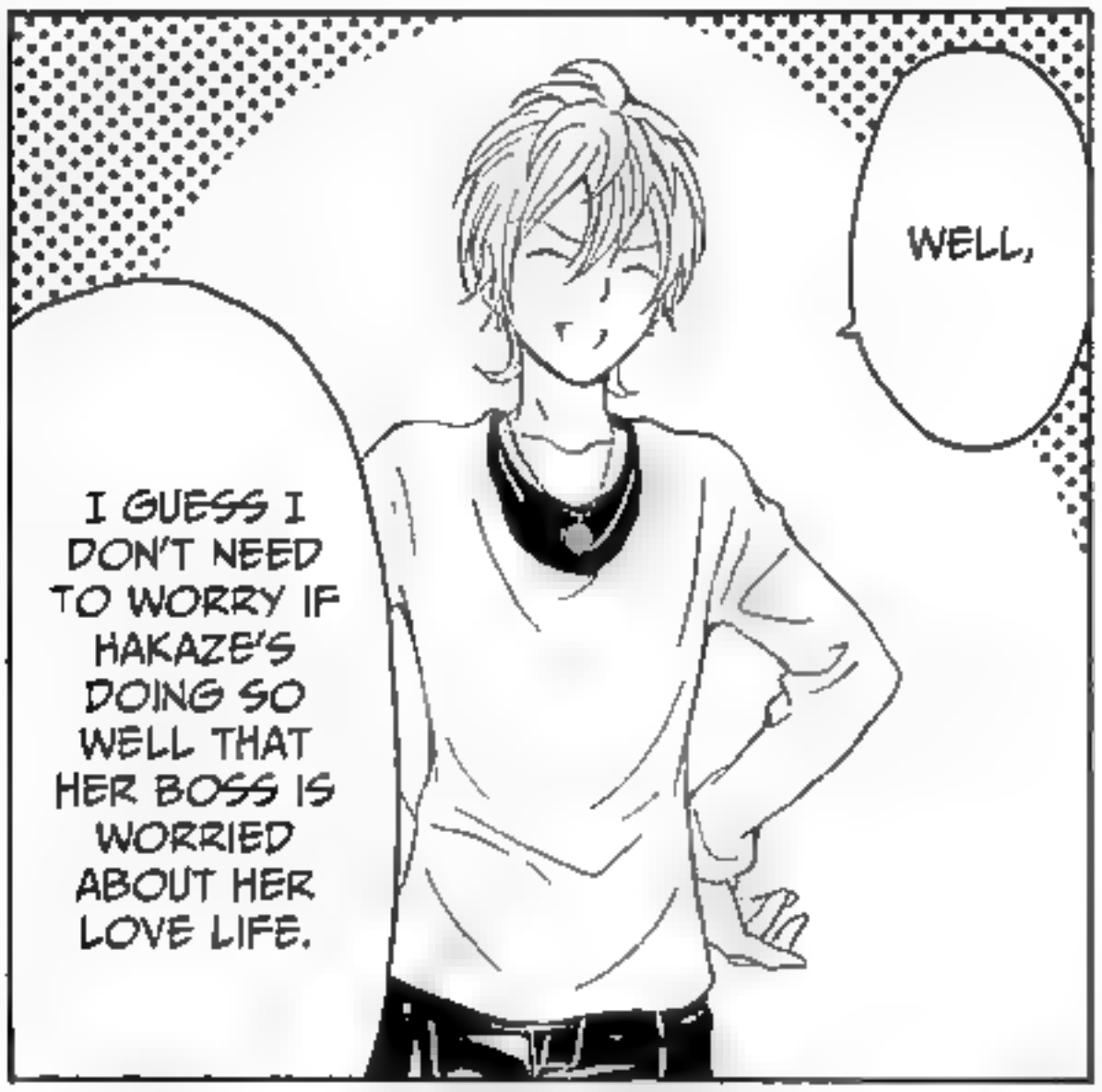
BUT I THOUGHT THE BOY SHE LIKED

WAS A TERRIBLE PERSON...

佐久間

BUT YEAH, HE'S GOT TONS OF PROBLEMS.

HE'S A REAL BAD GUY.


WELL,
I GUESS I DON'T NEED TO WORRY IF HAKAZE'S DOING SO WELL THAT HER BOSS IS WORRIED ABOUT HER LOVE LIFE.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BOTHER, THOUGH.

HAKAZE'S JUST TRYING TO ACT TOUGH.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A WEAK GIRL.

...SHE'S STILL JUST A GIRL.
EVEN SHE'S WEAK AT TIMES.

...YOU'RE NOT VERY POPULAR WITH WOMEN, ARE YOU?

AND WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

AND SCARED GIRLS!

THERE'S JUST STRONG GIRLS

WAS BOTH STRONG AND SCARED.

MY SISTER

ガチャ

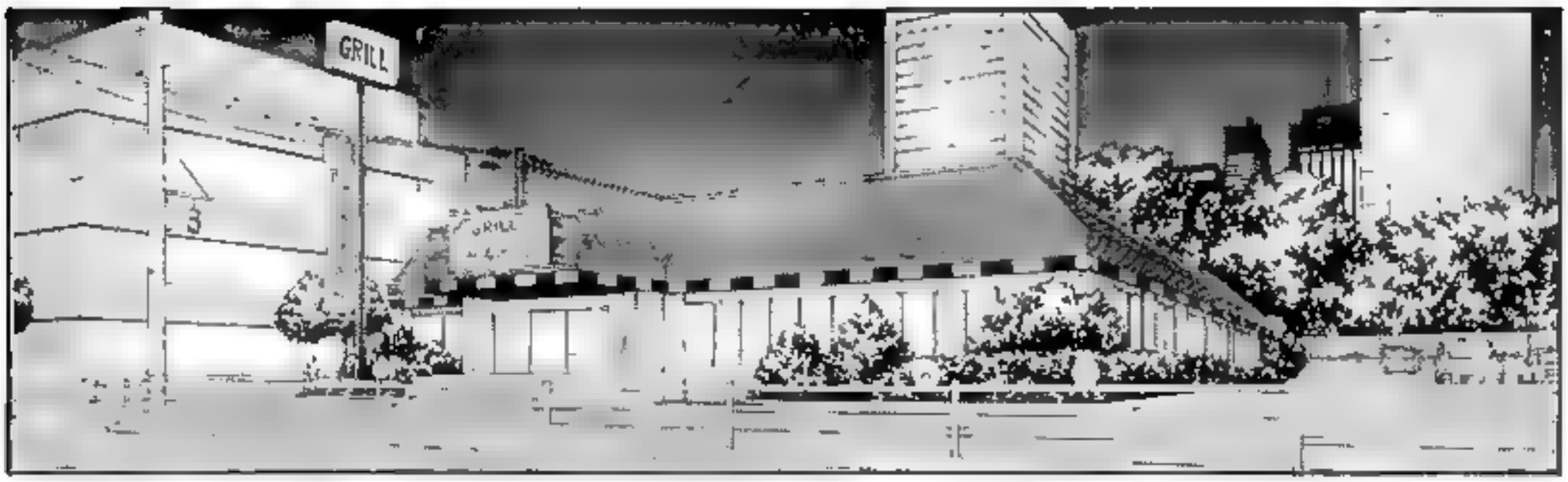
OH YEAH.

SOME WEIRD PEOPLE.

...RIBE SURE KNOWS

佐久間

WHAT TIME DOES HAKAZE GET OFF WORK TONIGHT?


GRILL
GRILL

WELL, AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T STAY TOO LONG...

THOSE GUYS...
JUST DOING WHATEVER THEY WANT WITHOUT CARING ABOUT HOW I FEEL...

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

THAT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A GOOD REASON TO WAIT THIS LONG.

I THOUGHT I'D WALK YOU HOME.

7— ...

THAT'S SO LIKE YOU.

...YOU DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS *MY* IDEA, DID YOU?

BUT MAHIRO ASKED WHEN YOU FINISHED WORK, AND TOLD ME I SHOULD WALK BACK WITH YOU.

WELL, I DIDN'T REALLY SEE THE POINT,

...YOU KNOW,

HEY, I'M TRYING.

YOU STILL ACT JUST THE SAME.

WHETHER YOU'VE CHANGED OR WHETHER YOU HAVEN'T,

I'LL KILL YOU, THAT'S WHAT.

YOU KNOW, I REALLY BELIEVE YOU WOULD.

WHAT'LL YOU DO THEN?

I'LL GO GET A NEW GIRLFRIEND AND INTRODUCE HER TO YOU.

DO YOU THINK SAYING THAT IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME HAPPY?

I'D BE HAPPY FOR YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART

ON THE OTHER HAND, F YOU GOT A BOYFRIEND AND INTRODUCED H.M TO ME,

NO, JUST THAT YOU SHOULD BE A B.T MORE OPEN TO TRYING NEW THINGS.

TODAY WAS COMPLETELY YOUR FAULT!

LIKE HOW YOU'RE DOING A JOB YOU'RE NOT SUITED FOR AT ALL.

HAH

WANT TO HOLD HANDS?

DO YOU

HM?

THAT ONLY HAPPENS TO LITTLE KIDS.

IT'S DARK OUT. WE MIGHT GET SEPARATED.

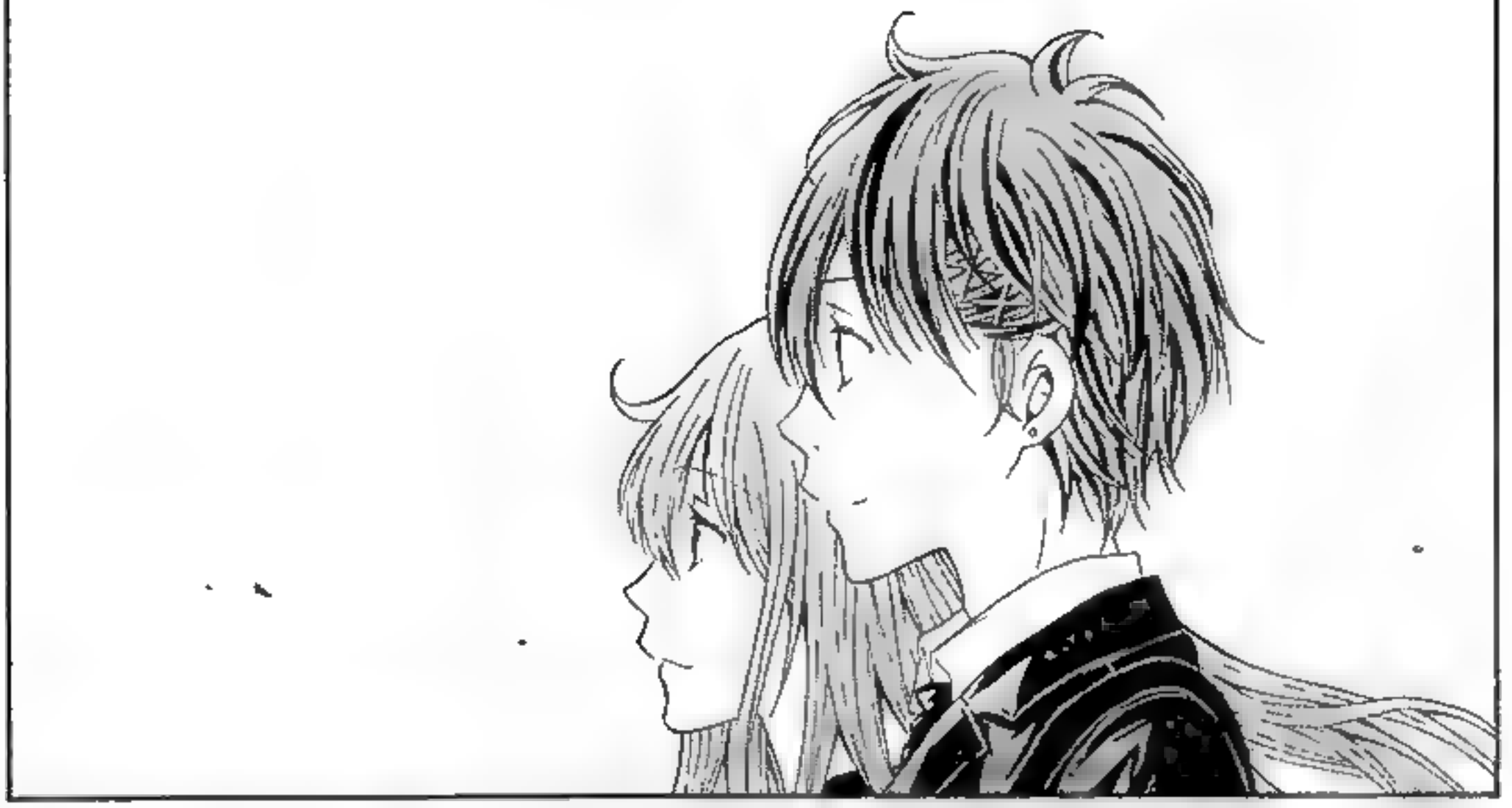
I STILL CAN'T WALK AS CONFIDENTLY AS MAHIRO CAN.

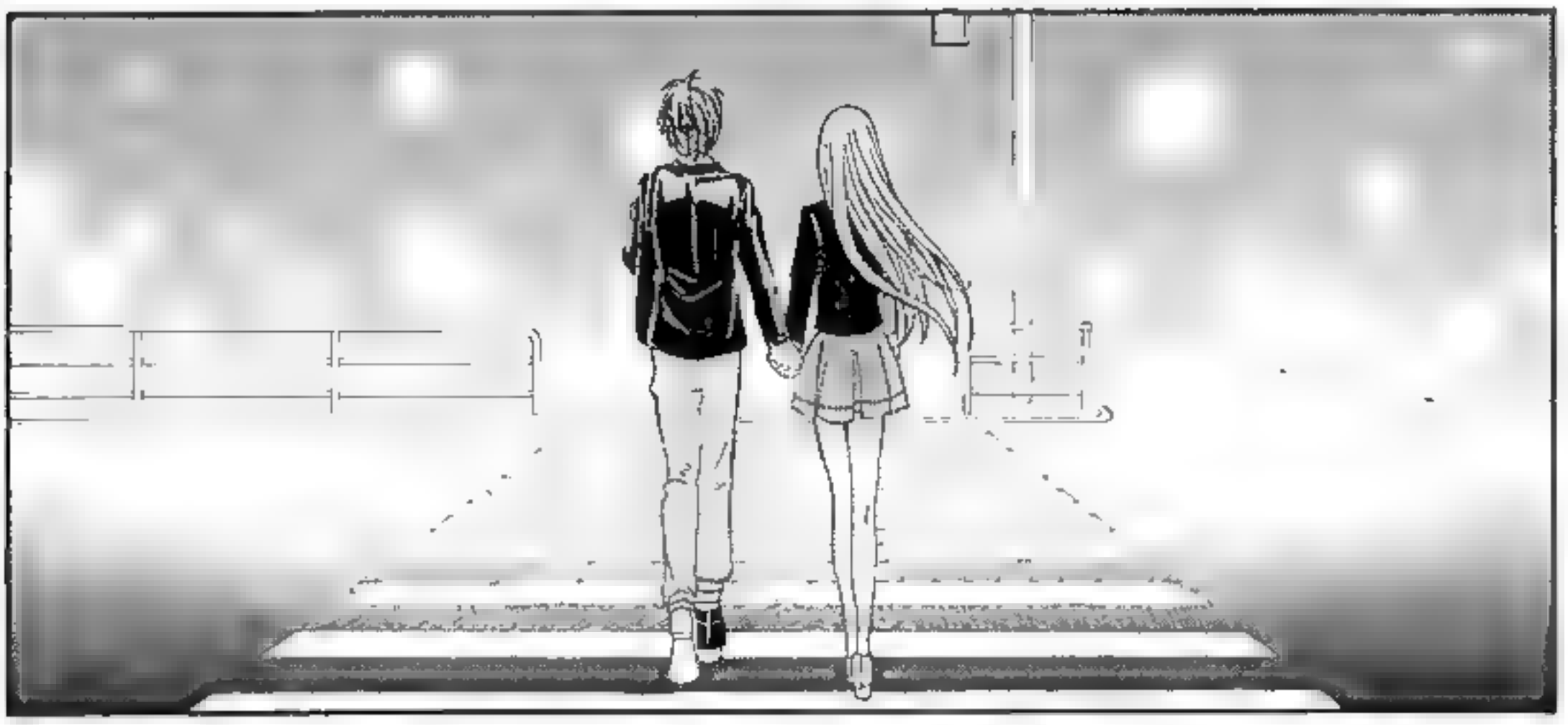
SO JUST BECAUSE THERE'S THAT MILLION-TO-ONE CHANCE THAT I MIGHT GET LOST, I WANT TO HOLD YOUR HAND.

...GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, THEN.

YEAH,

LOOKS LIKE IT.





EXTRA VOLUME - FIN

Afterword

This is Kyo Shiradaira. This extra volume was a collection of side stories, so instead of a normal afterword, I'll talk a bit about each of them.

Extra 1: The Story of a New Girlfriend
This story where Mahiro saves a girl was briefly touched upon in Chapter 1 of the main story, but it's actually fairly important. Everything that happens afterward is connected to this. Originally, Mimori was going to call Mahiro "Koppe Pantaro" instead of "Flyman," but that sounded too romantic so I changed it.

Extra 2: Puss in Boots
In a rare event for manga, this chapter only has adults in it. Plus, the "mystery" isn't even solved by the end. These extra chapters were originally all going to be based off of Charles Perrault's fairy tales, but it didn't really work out so this ended up being the only one.

Extra 3: Ribe of the Family Restaurant
I knew that I had to write Hakaze's afterstory, and decided that she'd play the detective while working at a family restaurant. Looking back at the villain though, even I'm a bit surprised that all the girls in this series are like this. It's the same in Extra 5.

Extra 4: A Day in Samon's Life
This was the result of me wanting to draw what Samon's life was like, as well as Yoshino's afterstory.
It does seem like a boring life, but it was actually quite hard to draw.

Extra 5: The Waiting Woman
This one is about Yuki, who's only really alluded to in the main story. It's meant to read like a sort of bizarre detective novel, though it ended up a bit shorter than I originally planned.
By the way, when someone in a mystery story is going to be evicted or has to sell their house, they bury a corpse underneath it.

Extra 6: Curtain Call — Applause
At the very end, all the characters gather in one place. And they all lived happily ever after. Come to think of it, this is the first we've seen of Mahiro's afterstory. I guess I just see him as "a good guy."

And with that, the curtains fall on "Blast of Tempest." All you readers who've stayed with me until the very end, thank you so, so much.
I hope we meet again some day.

Kyo Shirodaira

平成3年8月2日第3種郵便物認可 平成23年12月12日発行・発売 毎月1回12日発行・発売 定価本体540円＋税

少年ガンガン

月刊

1月

GANGAN 超特大号

特別定価540円

水野英多 新連載!

カラー

うみねこのなく頃に散

Episode:2 Requiem of the golden witch

単行本1巻 12/22発売!

大人気!!

最新単行本第5巻絶賛発売中!

絶園のテンペスト

原作:城平 京

構成:左 有秀

作画:彩崎 廉

巻頭カラー!

世界の命運をかけたラブコメ!?

特別ノベルティ 01

ガンガンオリジナル
卓上型ポストカード
カレンダー2012

特別ノベルティ 02

絶園のテンペスト
特製クリアファイル

センターカラー

TVアニメ絶賛放送中!!

ギルティクラウン

構成:宮城陽亮 作画:満月ジオン

少年ガンガン

月刊 GANGAN 6月 超特大号 税別定価540円

特別読切01

センターカラー

黒の探偵

日五円

特別読切02

センターカラー

桜井亜都

ヤンドレス

TVアニメ絶賛放送中!!

センターカラー

咲-Saki-阿知賀編

episode of side-A

原作:小林立

漫画:五十嵐あぐり

豪華2大フロク!

特別フロク02

咲-阿知賀編-

特製アニメポスター第3弾

特大B3サイズ!

特別フロク01

五十嵐あぐり描き下ろし!

絶園のテンペスト

原作:城平京

漫画:左有秀

作画:彩崎廉

TVアニメ化決定!!

絶園のテンペスト

6月号で大絶賛完結中!

平成3年8月2日第3種郵便物認可 平成24年9月12日発行・発売 毎月1回12日発行 発売 第22巻第

少年サンデーS 月刊

一単行本第1巻発売記念

別冊

絶園のテンペスト×ロボティクス;ノーツ
特製クリアしおりセット

10月超特大号
定価500円

TVアニメ放送開始!!

単行本第7巻 9月22日発売!!

新連載!! 一挙二話掲載!!

巻頭カラー

絶園のテンペスト

原作:城平京
構成:左有秀
作画:影崎薫

10月よりフジテレビ"ノイタミナ"枠にてTVアニメ放送開始!!

センターカラー

Robotics;Notes ドリームシーカー

原作:5pb. 作画:知乃綴

10月よりMBS・TBS"アニメイズム"枠他にて

少年エース

月刊

11月

超特大号

特別定価540円

新連載

センターカラー

ルネサンス・イヴ

伊藤宗一郎

NGAN

大放送中!!

センターカラー

Robotics;Notes

ドリームリーガー

時計ワロクロ

絶賛放送中!!

TVアニメ

2号連続!

応募者全員サービス

特製ネックレス

イラスト描きおろし

特製チャーム

不破真広 Ver.

TVアニメ放送

開始記念3大企画!

絶園のテンペスト

(ぜつえん)

特別読切

絶園のテンペスト

アニメ・ビジュアル収録

特別下敷き

TVアニメ

放送開始も迫る

櫻平 京　左 有秀　杉崎 崇

平成3年8月2日第3種郵便物認可 平成24年11月12日発行・発売（毎月1回12日発行・発売）第22巻第13号通巻342号

少年ガンガン

月刊 GANGAN 12月 超特大号 特別定価540円

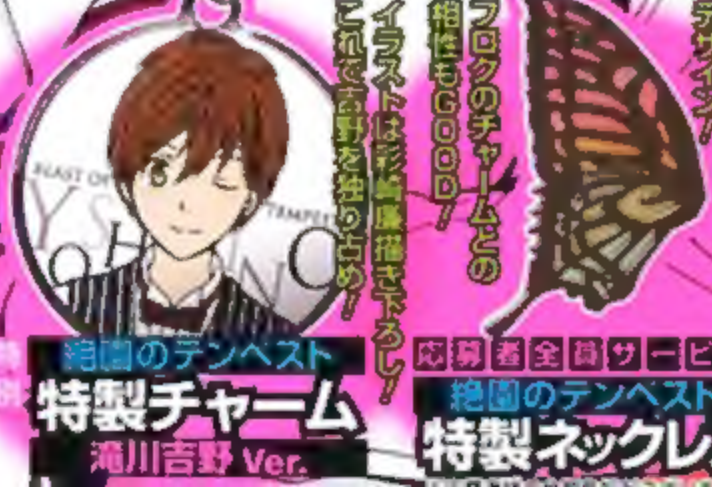
人気新連載第2回!!
センターカラー
「ルネサンス・イヴ」
伊藤彩沙

TVアニメ2作品大絶賛放送中!!

センターカラー
「絶園のテンペスト」
MBS・TBS・アニメイズム枠他にて絶賛放送中!!
原作 椙本孝思
作画 城平京
彩崎廉 左有秀

センターカラー
「ロボティクス・ノーツ」
フジテレビ・ノイタミナ他にて絶賛放送中!!
原作 5pb.
漫画 知乃綴

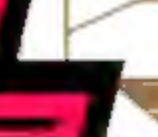
センターカラー
「俺の彼女に何かよろしく」
高津カリノ
超待望の3号連続掲載!!



男女兼用のCOOLなデザイン!
フロクのチャームとの相性もGOOD!
イラストは彩崎廉描き下ろし!
これで吉野を独り占め!

平成3年8月2日第3種郵便物認可　平成25年1月12日発行・発売（毎月12日発行・発売）第23巻第2号通巻344号

少年ガロ 月刊



俺の彼女に何かようかい
高津カリノ

ルネサンス・イヴ
伊藤砂務

2月
超特大号
特別定価540円
巻頭カラー

TVアニメ大絶賛放送中!!

絶園のテンペスト

待望の最新単行本第8巻1月22日発売!!

原作：城平京
構成：左有秀
作画：彩崎廉

真広と吉野も付けてる
POPでカッコイイ本格仕様!!

特別フロク01
FRONT
SIDE
絶園のテンペスト
特製イヤホン

特別フロク02

黒執事
×絶園のテンペスト
コラボレーション
二つ折りポスター

絶園のテンペスト
特製ブックマーカー

栞のチャームが超COOL!

特別企画
「絶園のテンペスト」
原作×アニメ連動
大プレゼントキャンペーン実施!!

今月がラストチャンス！
応募者全員サービス

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少年ガンガン

月刊

4月号

超特大

特別定価540円

TVアニメ大絶賛放送中!!

絶園のテンペスト

巻頭カラー

原作 城平京

作画 左有秀

彩崎廉

美しき春の桜の咲く頃に。新しき旅路最終話!!

次号より特別編の開始が決定!!

もうひとつの
本格美少女麻雀物語!!
感動の最終回!!

センターカラー

咲-Saki- 阿知賀編
episode of side-A

原作 小林立
作画 五十嵐あぐり

劇場版絶賛公開中!!
注目のコミカライズ第2話!!

センターカラー

とある魔術の禁書目録 エンデュミオンの奇蹟

鎌池和馬 原作
冬川基 キャラクター原案
鳴風ユウ 漫画
引用 発売

新連載ダークファンタジー!

センターカラー

UNKNOWN

今月がラストチャンス!

応募者全員サービス

絶園のテンペスト
特製イヤホンジャック&
タッチペン

不破寛広

PansonWorksとのコラボイラスト使用

※応募者様の全額負担がございます。

特別フロク

絶園のテンペスト
プレミアムドラマCD Vol.1

原作・城平京書き下ろし脚本&
TVアニメキャスト出演!!

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少年エース 月刊

6月 超特大号
定価500円

待望の最新単行本第9巻 5月22日発売!!

絶園のテンペスト

巻頭カラー 原作 城平京 漫画 左有秀 作画 彩崎廉

ボーナスストーリー特別編 第2回

センターカラー「ヴァルキュリアイーター」

センターカラー「とある魔術の禁書目録 エンデュミオンの奇蹟」

特別センターカラー

「[illegible]のアルカロス」

「ブラッド・シーカー」

書いて消して、繰り返し使えるメモ機能付き!!

特製メモクリアファイル